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NBC's "America's Got Talent" Finalists

the DUTTONS

"I Loved it! I absolutely loved it!" *Simon Cowell*

Photo by Mark Mabry

*The three-generation, multi-award-winning international touring and recording artists—***The Duttons***—won widespread recogntion on "America's Got Talent" and earned additional honors this year as the* **Best Show in Branson**. *Now, they are becoming well known as top Arizona entertainers as, for the past six years, they have spent the winter months in the Southwest and, this year, opened their own theater in Mesa.*

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Photo by Mark Mabry

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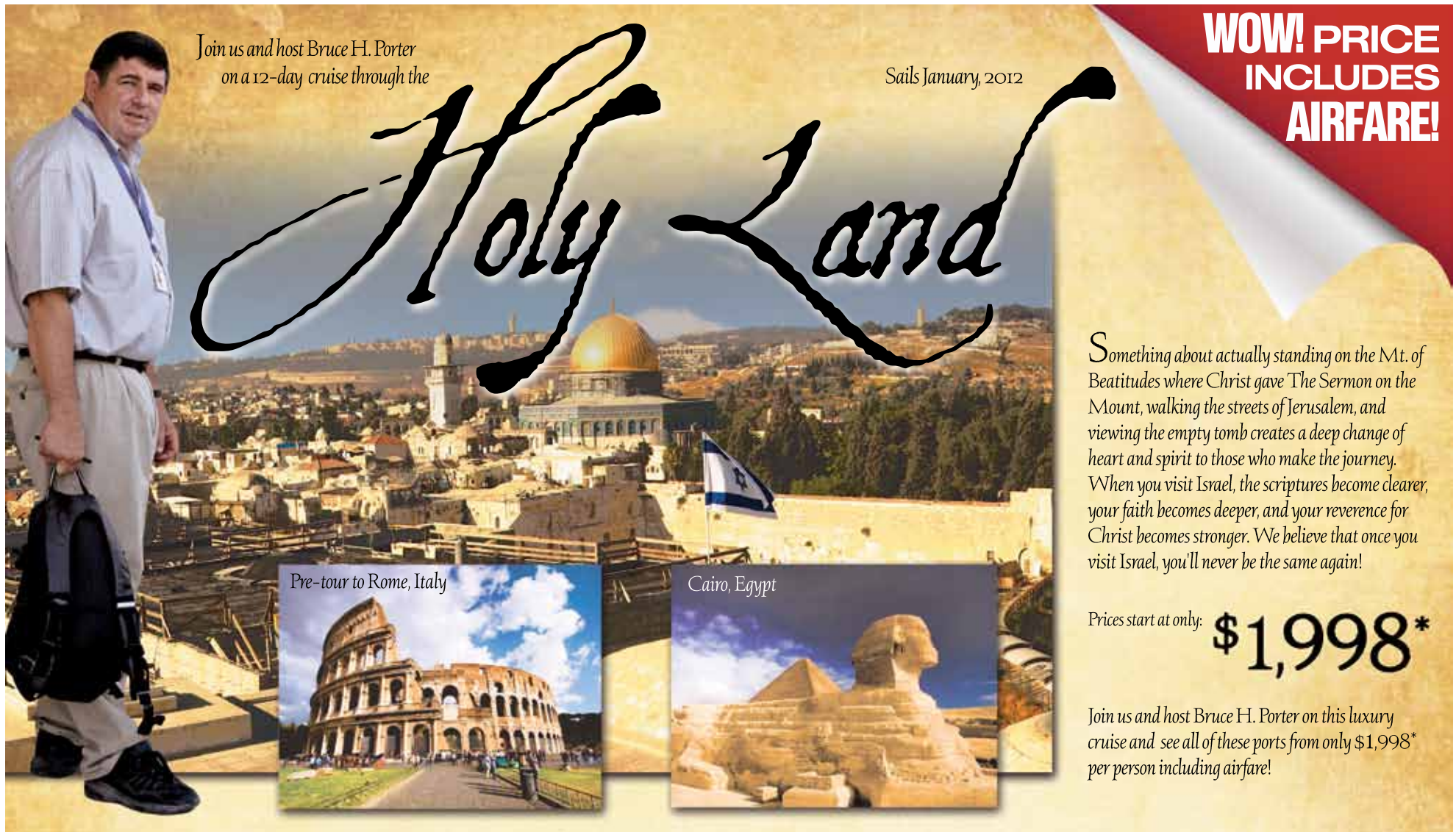
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the DUTTONS

Bring World-class, Family-friendly Entertainment to Arizona

Photo by Mark Mabry

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

After touring all over Europe twice, traveling more than a million miles across the United States, being featured on two PBS television specials and making it into the Top Ten on "America's Got Talent," the Dutton family has now put down roots in the Phoenix East Valley—well, there and in Branson, Missouri, both.

International touring and recording artists, The Duttons are recognized for their three-generation show, their repertoire of everything from bluegrass to classical, their prowess in playing a variety of instruments and their spectacular appeal—or, what has been referred to as "showmanship personified."

Last year, they were recognized with the Best Show Award in Branson, where they perform 250 shows a year in their own Dutton Family Theatre, as well as operating a gift shop, inn and restaurant.

For the past six years, they've brought that same Dutton brand of family togetherness and top-notch entertainment to Arizona, spending the off season between mid-December and March performing to delighted audiences in the Southwest.

"We have homes in Gilbert, so Arizona is our permanent winter home," says Ben Dutton. "We love it here. People have been so welcoming

Continued on pg. 4

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We will all face trials in this life. There will be times when the sea is raging around us. It may feel as if we are destined to fail, that the storms are too great and that we are helpless, that all is lost. We often try to save ourselves, but when we turn ourselves over to the Lord, having done all that we can, He will save us. We will hear those magnificent words spoken in our hearts, "Peace, be still."

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The Duttons
Continued from pg. 3

and supportive. We really feel at home in Arizona."

Along with establishing residences, The Duttons opened their own theater in East Mesa this year.

Ben says, "Our younger sister, Abby, holds down the fort in Branson and Joshua is at BYU," so this year's Arizona show includes "Mom and Dad" Sheila and Dean Dutton, four of their children, four spouses and 19 of the 22 grandchildren.

The legacy of the flourishing family business—one that has had to be both extremely mobile and extremely musical—began 20 years ago.

At the outset, Sheila and Dean had no intention of becoming professional musicians. But, wanting to teach their six children to have a good work ethic, they expected each of them to learn to play the violin.

So, it was the children who first began performing and succeeding with their music. Yet, mom and dad soon joined in and took the lead in what would become not just a business but a way of life for them all.

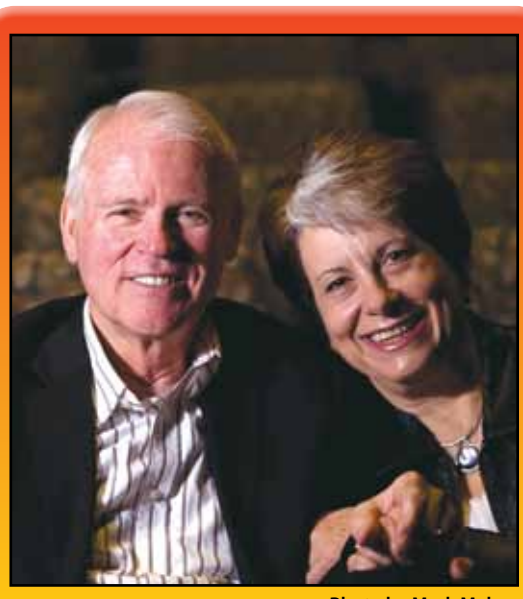

Photo by Mark Mabry

Sheila and Dean Dutton are "Mom and Dad" to the award-winning family of musicians, The Duttons, and, while they never intended to have a "family band," they now lead the growing music business and continue to perform in the show with their children.

"It's absolutely wonderful to have mom and dad at the head of our business," Ben says. "They have given us so much their whole lives and they have so much wisdom. Mom really has an entrepreneurial spirit."

"And, she's a master motivator," he says, explaining that practicing the violin was a rule, just like doing chores in their home. "Most of us would have quit if it weren't for mom. She told us we could quit when we were 18," he laughs.

From those violin-lesson beginnings, each of them has gone on to master a number of other instruments.

"Now, we each play six or more instruments in every show," Ben says.

Photo by Mark Mabry

The second generation of The Duttons--including (l to r) Timothy, Amy, Benjamin, Abigail and Jonathan--and their spouses make up the core of their family-friendly show, with each of them playing at least six instruments and providing the comedy, wide range of music and vocals that combine to create the spectacular entertainment now being shared in their Mesa theater.

Sheila even got into the performing, though she didn't have her first music lesson until she was 37.

"I just didn't think music was a talent I had," she says. "It's a testament that the Lord often has better plans than the ones we had figured out."

Ben says this is reflected in each of them as they have stretched to take on different roles and responsibilities. He says The Duttons show is unique in that "One family does everything in the show. There are no hired band members or comedians or dancers. We do it all."

The same holds true for the business side of things, with each family member managing a portion of the business.

"Life can get a little crazy sometimes, but we enjoy it," says Amy Dutton Arambulo, whose husband, Rudy, is the Dutton's lighting director, but who also is an attorney and stayed in Bran-

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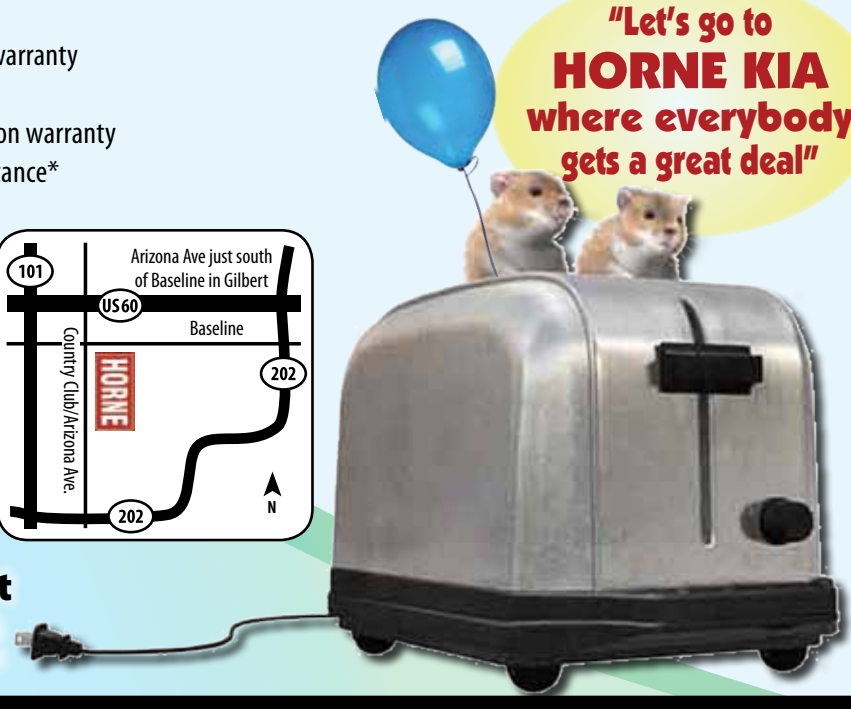

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The Duttons
Continued from pg. 4

son to run his law practice while Amy and their four boys, ranging in age from 8 to 7 months old, came to Arizona.

"He comes out every other weekend and it's working pretty well," Amy says.

She says, even with the challenges and the transitioning from one state to the other, she enjoys the end result.

"I genuinely enjoy what we do. It brings me a lot of joy to bring happiness to someone else," she says. "We've heard a lot, and especially lately with everything going on in the world today, things like, 'I'm so glad you're doing this together as a family. It really kind of puts things back into perspective.' Comments like that really hit home."

Amy hopes their example is contagious and that people will act on the messages her family conveys, especially those about family togetherness.

"We hope people will go home and spend a little more time with their families," Amy says.

"A real closeness develops when you work together," says Sheila. "It's a special and unique thing. I have a whole different level of association with my adult children. And their spouses are so dear to me. I love them like my own."

Dean, who not only has the responsibility of being "Dad" to the Dutton clan, but who frequently returns to Branson where he continues to serve as the bishop of his ward family, says, "I have some beliefs that we're placed in families to learn how to get along and to learn certain skills to refine us for eternal life," he says. "I believe we were called of the Lord to do what we're doing and the particular personalities involved have allowed it to work out."

"The reason we can do what we do is because of Heavenly Father."

The family, indeed, has learned to work together and to make adjustments for one another.

Amy, who majored in classical violin at BYU and is producer of the show, says she draws from the others as they collaborate to create new production ideas, including choreography, musical arrangement, comedy and special effects.

"We all brainstorm, and people come to me with ideas," she says. This year has been particularly demanding as, in addition to the Branson show and the Arizona show that is similar, they have done a Christmas show and, in March, will perform a 20th Anniversary Show of favorite songs from over the years.

Amy says, for her, one of the greatest lessons learned over the years is: "You can do something if you have enough gumption."

She says, vocally, "We started out sounding like a bad Primary choir. We had to work on our vocals and on our harmony; it didn't just come. It took a whole lot of work and a whole lot of practice, but it totally paid off."

Another profound lesson is one her parents continue to teach them all.

"They have taught us that we have to try to remember that the reason we can do what we do is because of Heavenly Father. He gave us our talents and is giving us opportunities to do these things to bless others' lives. It is all because of Him," Amy says. "We can get caught up in our own ego and forget that. But, when we continually strive to do the right things, we're more blessed and things seem to work out a whole lot easier. Doors open and things just work out."

For information about shows at The Dutton Family Theater, located at 7464 East Main Street in Mesa, or other Phoenix area engagements, call 480-840-MUSIC (6874) or visit www.theduttons.com.

Mesa Easter Pageant Dates Announced

Plan now to attend the Mesa Easter Pageant and to invite friends and family of other faiths to join you.

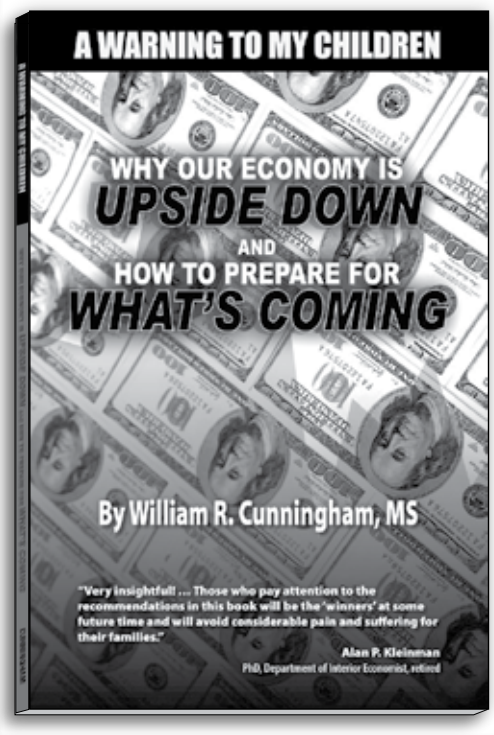
"We have worked, on a volunteer basis, year round to bring this life-changing message to everyone," says Pageant director, Nanci Wudel. "Our wish and prayer is that all who come to the Pageant this year will return home with greater hope in their hearts, stronger faith in their souls, and more gratitude for Jesus of Nazareth, who gave His life so that we can live in joy and happiness forever as we follow Him."

The cast is 453 members strong for year's Pageant,

"Plus we have a herd of beautiful new sheep for this year; Snickers, our magnificent donkey is back with us, as well as our elite miniature ponies. We also have many new, beautiful costumes this year," says Sister Wudel.

A public-invited dress rehearsal will be Tuesday, April 12, with an English performance at 7 p.m. and Spanish at 8:30 p.m. Then, beginning at 8 p.m., the Pageant will be presented in English April 13, 14 and 19 through 23; and in Spanish April 14 and 15. ASL will be available April 13 through 15.

The Pageant is free and is performed in front of the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center at 525 E. Main Street. Free parking is available on surrounding streets.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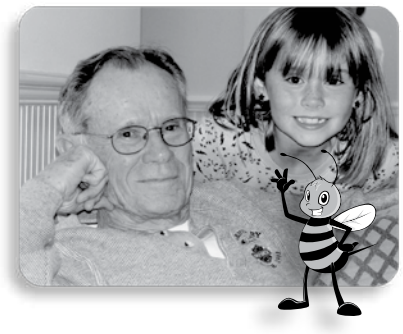

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Letters to The Beehive

Dear Beehive:

While cleaning up around our home office here in Oakland I came across the latest issue of The Beehive, which had been set aside in the midst of a very busy Christmas season. I stopped what I was doing and enjoyed all that your wonderful publication has to offer.

I enjoyed reading your column and the many wonderful Beehive articles. It reminded me of when we first arrived in Oakland two years ago and I sent an introduction letter to all of the Northern California Priesthood leadership, which included a copy of your article on Diane and me coming here. That had a great effect in getting the many invitations to speak, which helped us properly fulfill our mandate to increase the use of this Visitors› Center on beautiful Temple Hill in Oakland.

I wish we would have had a Beehive-type publication in the Bay Area during our stay there. It would have helped immensely, getting the word out regarding our various programs and activities at the Visitors› Center.

Thank you to The Beehive for the much good you do.

Your friends,

Farrell & Diane Smith

Recently released as Directors,
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Dear Beehive,

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Sincerely,

Stuart H. Agren, MD

Director, Family Allergy Clinic

Dear Beehive:

Just picked up The Beehive from the Shopper's Outlet--Wow!! You did a great job on Alec's article, Cecily! Thank you so much. I took it right over to Jodi's and they were so tickled with it. I think this is my favorite issue yet!

Sincerely

Becky Ross Denison

Dear Beehive,

Thank your for publishing the article that Cindy Williams did with me. Several people have contacted me about the article and encouraged me to keep up this work. Politics can be a depressing atmosphere and the encouragement and support is wonderful! I hope that others will feel encouraged about getting more involved in this process and find the information they need to make informed decisions. We need every citizen of this great nation to get involved. Thank you for supporting this important work.

Sincerely,

Mickie Niland

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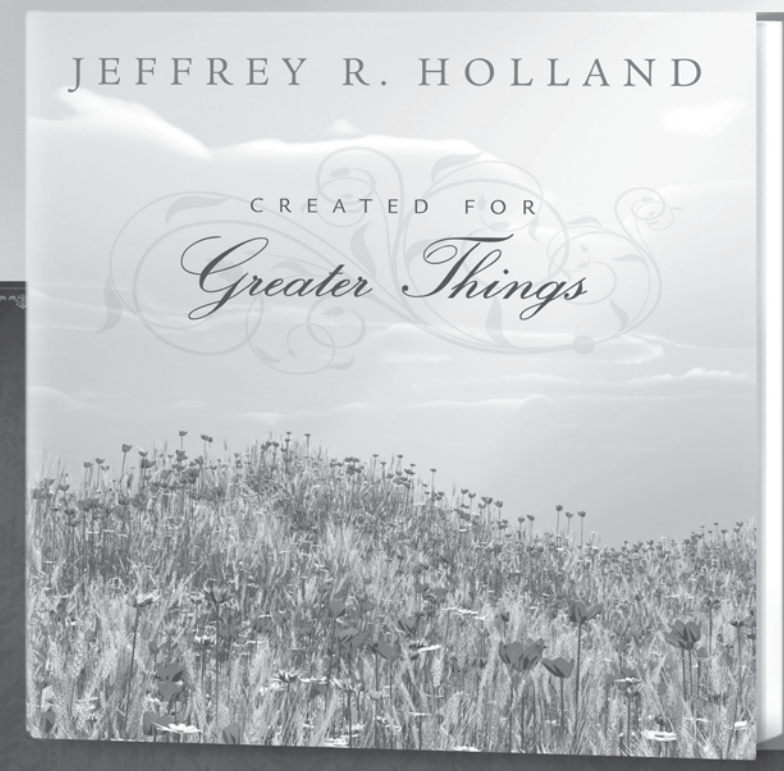

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LDS Quarterback
Completes Rookie Year with the
Arizona Cardinals

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

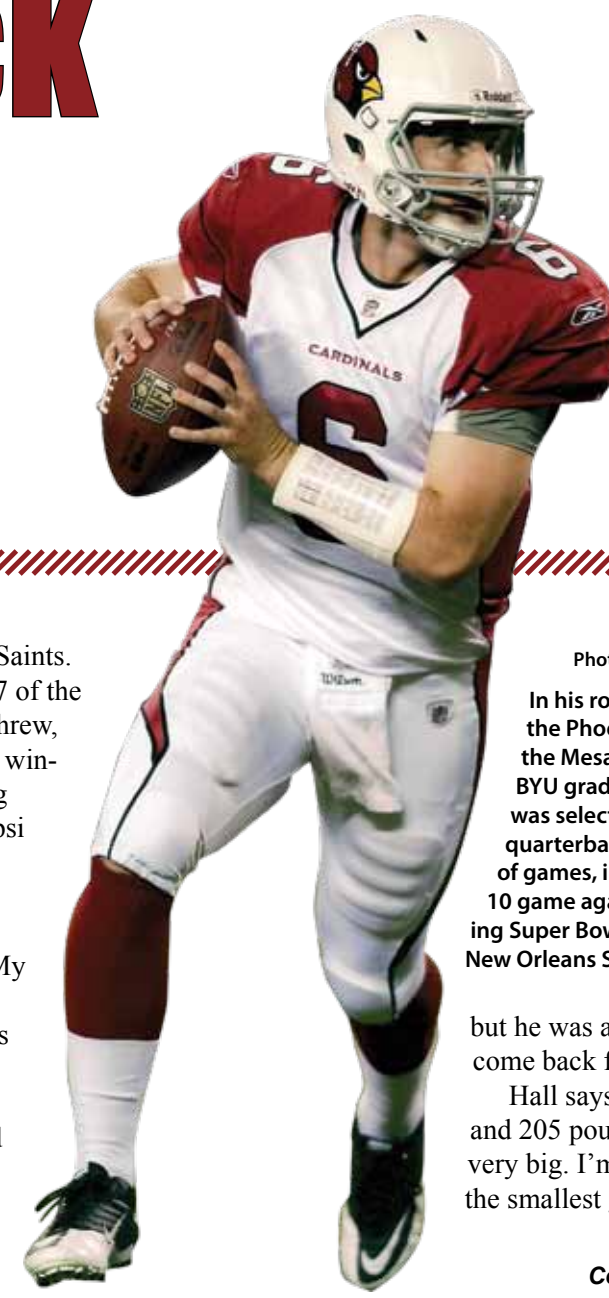

Photo courtesy of Max Hall

In his rookie season with the Phoenix Cardinals, the Mesa born and raised BYU graduate, Max Hall, was selected as starting quarterback for a handful of games, including the Oct. 10 game against the defending Super Bowl Champions, the New Orleans Saints.

With his rookie year in the National Football League behind him, Max Hall is more eager than ever to continue playing professional football for as long as possible.

"As a kid growing up, I really didn't think much past college. I did want to play in college, but I was thinking basketball," Hall says.

The son of Max and Cristall Hall, he was born and raised in Mesa and grew up in the Leonora Ward, Citrus Heights Stake. He played both basketball and football in high school, "but," says the Arizona Cardinals quarterback, "I ended up being better at football."

In 2002, as a junior, he led Mesa's Mountain View High School Toros to a state championship and was recognized as MVP and offensive player of the year. His senior year he was named All-Arizona quarterback after again leading his team to the state title game, which they lost in triple overtime.

He redshirted at ASU for a year before serving a mission to Iowa. In 2006, he transferred to BYU. He finished his career there as the quarterback with the most wins, a total of 32. Hall was signed by the Cardinals in 2010 as an undrafted free agent.

"I had a chance to start a few games this year. It was a great opportunity. I played well in some spots and not so well in others, but I learned what it is like to be an NFL quarterback."

The first game he started was against defending Super Bowl champions, the New Orleans Saints. Completing 17 of the 27 passes he threw, Hall ended up winning and being named the Pepsi Rookie of the Week.

One reporter said, "My favorite thing about Hall was his toughness. He took some hard shots and was briefly knocked out of the game at one point, but he was always ready to come back for more."

Hall says, at only 6'1" and 205 pounds, "I'm not very big. I'm pretty much the smallest guy out there,

Continued on pg. 9

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Join the Quest to be a Generational Change-Maker

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

A family history aficionado and founder of FamilyTreeQuest.com, Carolyn Murphy, of the Lyn Rae Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake, believes, no matter what their family history may show, each person can positively impact the future. "Every family tree everywhere has the potential of a bright and beautiful future," she says.

Carolyn continues, "Especially in this day and age, so many families are full of pain, distress and feelings of being broken or damaged. Disheartened family members may tend to want to look away from their own family trees instead of toward them."

Instead, Carolyn says, her efforts are centered on reconnecting people to the idea that "individual actions impact future generations."

Individuals can sign up on Carolyn's website to *Join the Quest*—which is the quest to find principle-centered solutions that enrich lives and bring joy to individuals and families. Those who join then become *Generational Change-makers* (GCMs).

According to Carolyn, "Generational Change-makers receive added information and support on their journey to changing destructive trends in their family line. In the process, a GCM's passion for helping future generations is ignited as they begin to more fully realize their own extraordinary and meaningful place on their family tree."

Check out www.familytreequest.com or visit Carolyn's blog at www.family-treegal.blogspot.com.

LDS Quarterback

Continued from pg. 8

but I work hard and I know what I want."

He says he would advise anyone: "If you have a dream, you have to go for it."

"Know what your goals are. Do what you have to do. Work hard, and give it a shot."

Hall says it was his dad who taught him at a young age to work hard at accomplishing the goals he had set for himself.

"He was the one who instilled all this in me," Hall says. "My dad deserves a lot of credit for where I'm at."

Hall says he looks at football a little differently now that he is married and has started a family.

He and his wife, McKinzi, have a son, Rex, and a daughter on the way.

"You have to grow up when you have kids and a wife to take care of. It makes things more serious, but way more fun. It's a real blessing to have them in my life."

He adds that he feels blessed to have a testimony of the gospel as well.

"I remember a special experience I had when I was just a young boy, of 11 or 12. We had the missionaries come to our house for dinner. They gave us a challenge to read and pray about the Book of Mormon. "

Hall took the challenge and "I did get a strong feeling. I felt the Holy Ghost telling me it was true."

He adds, "What has absolutely strengthened my testimony the most is getting sealed to my wife in the temple and having the blessing, the covenant and the promise of being with each other forever. That's what life is all about, and I'm excited about Heavenly Father's plan for us."

Hall and his wife recently purchased a home in Gilbert, in the Greenfield Acres Ward area.

Currently rehabbing a dislocated shoulder, Hall says he is working to get healthy during the off season. He has signed a two-year contract with the Cardinals. So, "unless they cut me, I'll be there next year." Knowing he will have to "work hard" and get "faster and stronger," he says, "I hope to play football in the NFL for as long as I can."

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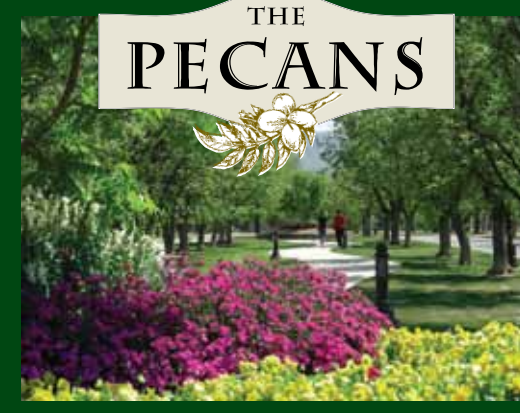

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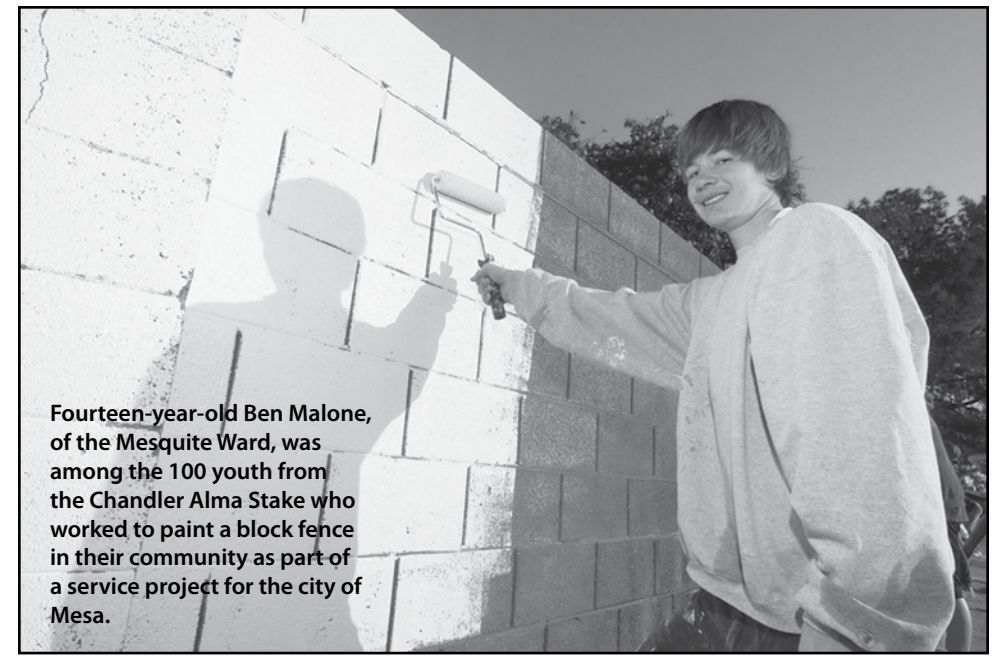

Fourteen-year-old Ben Malone, of the Mesquite Ward, was among the 100 youth from the Chandler Alma Stake who worked to paint a block fence in their community as part of a service project for the city of Mesa.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

On an early Saturday morning in January, almost 100 youth from the Chandler Alma Stake braved freezing temperatures to serve their neighbors. To kickoff the service project portion of their youth conference, the 12- to 18-year-olds gathered for breakfast and were then given instructions.

Jared Roskelly, Stake High Councilor over Young Men, was excited about the service project even before it began.

"We were looking for a service project that would meet two goals," he says. "First, we wanted to make a significant difference in the community. And we preferred to keep everyone together. We wanted a reminder of what we did so that we could take some pride of ownership."

Personnel at the City of Mesa identified a possible project: a long block fence that separated the Carriage Lane Park from surrounding homes. A small portion of it had been painted by homeowners, but it had never been finished. The entire fence needed to be painted white to beautify it and also to prepare it for artists to paint murals over it in the future. Leaders felt it was the perfect project for the stake's youth, half of whom live in Chandler and the other half in Mesa.

Brother Roskelly explains that there were 100 sections of fence, each of which needed three coats of paint.

"Everyone was given a section of block fence to paint," he says, adding, "I was impressed by how quickly they got it done."

In just over two hours, the entire fence was painted. Like Brother Roskelly, city personnel also were surprised at how quickly and efficiently the youth worked.

"We accomplished a lot that day even though it didn't take that long," says 16-year-old, John Millard. "It looked a lot nicer."

Brother Roskelly says he never heard a word of complaint and the youth "had a good spirit about them."

Also part of the conference, in addition to completing the service project, the stake youth were introduced to the 2011 Young Women and Young Men's theme, which is the Thirteenth Article of Faith. The service project ended the conference on a high note, says Brother Roskelly.

"I think teens these days get a bad rap for being selfish," he says. "It's quite amazing—the power of the things that they can get done is evidence of how powerful our youth really are."

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At 100 years old,

Mesa woman continues to attend the temple every day

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Photo courtesy of John Lewis

Mary Heywood Lewis Riggs, who will turn 100 this summer, enjoys serving in the Mesa Temple and spends four to five hours there every day the temple is open.

They could both be considered landmarks—two familiar, long-established sights, each linked to the same family roots.

One, built in 1950 in Holbrook, Arizona, by Chester Lewis, is the Wigwam Motel. Chester, believing that guests would enjoy the idea of sleeping in a 30 x 16-foot concrete teepee, bought the rights to the design, and then built six Wigwam Villages over a 20-year period. The Holbrook motel was closed in 1974. Chester died in 1986; however, his widow and children, still believing in Chester's dream, restored and reopened the 15 rooms in 1988, and they continue to operate it today.

Located along what was once Route 66, where it beckons to tourists and nostalgia buffs, The Wigwam Motel has been a familiar landmark for more than 60 years.

The second "landmark" is the one created by Chester's widow, Mary Heywood Lewis Riggs, a member of Udall Ward in the Mesa Stake.

Though much more mobile than a concrete teepee, this familiar "landmark," too, is solid—at least in its representation of faith and dedication. The sight, well familiar to many who visit the Mesa Arizona Temple, is Mary herself, at nearly 100 years old, pushing her walker in front of her to attend the temple every day that it is open.

Her service and dedication are monumental, and, yet, she would just as soon be referred to as "Mrs. Anonymous," and not have the attention focused on her.

Born on June 27, 1911, to Alvinia Savage and Joseph Neal Heywood, Jr., Mary came into this world with a strong heritage of Church service. Her first great grandfather, Joseph Leland Heywood, was acquainted with Joseph Smith and became the first U.S. Marshall of Utah. Her first great grandmother, Martha Spence, was the subject of the book about plural marriage titled, Not by Bread Alone.

She married Chester in California in 1933. Together, they had eight children, two of whom are now deceased. After Chester's passing in 1986, Mary married Don Lynwood Riggs in 1992. He died about nine years later. Today, Mary has 36 grandchildren, 70 great grandchildren and an increasing number of great great grandchildren.

Her youngest son, John Lewis, says his mother deserves credit for preserving much of what their family holds dear.

"The Wigwam Motel is a national historic site. It's always been in our family and she's the one who is really responsible for making sure that happened."

In a similar fashion, she has held fast to the tradition of Church service. "I think it was born in me," Sister Riggs says.

John agrees, "When it comes to spiritual things, she never gets enough of it. She is hungry for it."

He adds, "It's like she has always known what the Church was, and since I was a pup I've had that passed on to me."

John now has an opportunity to serve her in return as he takes her breakfast in bed each morning, then, on the days the temple is open, helps her get ready, tows her walker behind while pushing her in a wheelchair from her nearby home to the temple, then helps her transfer to the walker she prefers to use inside.

Some days John attends with her, other days he returns to pick her up four or five hours later. "What I do for her is not a one-sided thing. It's part of the plan of life to help other people and it does more for me than for her. It's a pleasure and a privilege," John says.

Mary is grateful for the help that allows her to continue her favorite pastime.

"I've learned an awful lot in the temple. There is such a spirit of love there and it makes any earthly treasures look like garbage. It brings you closer to God," Mary says.

Even at 100, she has no intention of curtailing her daily visits. "It's the best place in the world to be," she says.

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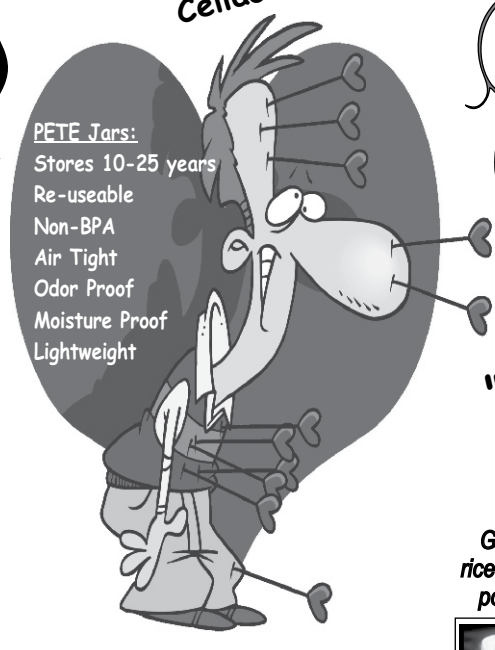

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Director Leads Mesa High Drama Program to New Heights

Photo courtesy of Sandra Stones

Mesa High School drama teacher, Sandra Stones, pictured front and center surrounded by cast members, has led the school to being selected four of the last six years for having one of the state's best high school theater productions.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For their performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Mesa High was selected again—for the fourth time in six years—as having one of the state's best high school theatre productions; and, for the third time, they were chosen to perform at the State Thespian Conference, the nation's third largest high school theatre festival.

This year's production also earned them an invitation to perform at the state-of-the-art Mesa Arts Center, and they did so to sellout crowds. They are now awaiting the judges' decision, hoping to be named one of four schools to perform their full-length production at the International Thespian Festival before an audience of 3,000 to 3,500.

Students, other faculty members and parents say accolades for it all should go to Mesa High drama teacher and director, Sandra Stones.

Yet, the woman students call "Momma Stones," turns it right back to them.

"I think the story is more about the amazing kids and talent at Mesa High," she says, and "of selfless individuals, parents, and friends who have shared their talents and support in making all of these things possible.'

A member of Southern Estates Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake, Sister Stones adds, "I love working at Mesa High. I love the diversity of ethnicity, socio-economic status, religious beliefs and incredible talent. … It is a well-rounded environment of strong academia, dedicated performing arts, excellent extracurricular activities and hard-working students who not only focus on bettering their school, but also their community."

She says LDS students have a marked impact at the school.

"They serve in Student Council, participate in performing arts, are active in sports, serve their community and finish strong in academics ... and the coolest thing about it—they all share these accomplishments with their peers who are not LDS; all of the students at Mesa High work together to make a positive difference."

Sister Stones has "upped the game," taking an already positive situation and applying her own brand of know-how, experience and enthusiasm. She has performed, taught theatre and directed numerous productions for 30 years. A graduate of ASU and Southwest Shakespeare Conservatory, she has been at Mesa High for seven years and was named 2008-2009 Teacher of Year.

She interacts with many students daily, as she teaches drama; is the advisor for Student Council, Speech and Debate and Christian Dance; and sponsors the Racquetball Club."

"My goal is that my students walk away better people, accepting of others' differences, and able to apply the things they have learned to their everyday lives. My class is not just about performing; it is about learning leadership skills, management skills, communication skills and so much more that is important beyond the classroom."

Hundreds of recognize her encouraging mottos.

"'Work hard; play hard!' is one I probably model the most," she says. "Posted on the wall at the front of my classroom, in large letters reads: 'What can I do today that will enrich the life of another?' and. in big, bold letters: 'POSITIVE! POSITIVE! POSITIVE!'"

Sister Stones' own motivation comes from deep within.

"It is my sacred, personal relationship with my Savior, and the knowledge that I am an instrument in His hands each and every day that impacts the way I work with these students. … The Lord has blessed me with specific gifts and talents, which I recognize come directly from Him. I could not begin to do what I do alone."

She also appreciates the family experience of working at Mesa High.

"My own children have attended and do attend Mesa High. They are involved in many or more of the activities I am, so we get to spend a lot of time together. I cherish the memories we have shared.'

She says, "My personal goals for the immediate future are to laugh often, to count my blessings each day, and to recognize the Lord's hand in all things—when you run a daily marathon, this keeps things in the right perspective."

Mesa High will present a Broadway Musical Review April 6 through 9 to raise funds to go to nationals, should they be accepted. The tickets will be $8 general admission and $6 for children, students and seniors.

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EVMCO Invited to Perform

MESSIAH IN AMERICA

in Tabernacle This Summer

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

By invitation, the East Valley Mormon Choral Organization (EVMCO) will travel to Salt Lake in June to be part of a momentous and massive recording experience and a performance in the historic Tabernacle on Temple Square.

The music that prompted it all is titled *Messiah in America*, a full-length, 34-movement oratorio written by Brett Stewart, who is the co-founder, with his brother, Brandon, of the Mormon Choral Organizations of America (MCOAmerica), made up of EVMCO and California's Orange County Mormon Choral Organization (OCMCO).

Messiah in America will be introduced by the 600-member EVMCO in Arizona in two performances on March 5 at the Mesa Arts Center. EVMCO members will then travel to Utah in June, where they will join with OCMCO to record *Messiah in America* at the world-renowned Abravanel Hall and perform it in the Tabernacle. Soloists will be Jennifer Welch-Babidge, soprano; Francesca Forsyth, alto; George Dyer, tenor; and John Huntington, bass.

In a letter, choir members were told, "Between the two organizations, there will be about 400 adult choir members, over 100 orchestra members, and potentially 200 youth, to total 700 participants and their families traveling to Utah for this momentous and perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. … While this will require dads and moms taking time off work, arranging care for their little ones, and altering other vacation plans, years from now these sacrifices will seem insignificant when compared to an experience that produced a lifetime of memories."

Indeed, says director, Brandon Stewart, the very beginnings of EVMCO have been noteworthy.

"We didn't know what to expect when we brought the program to the East Valley," says Brandon, who, with his wife, Heather and their two children, are members of Gilbert Constellation Ward, Gilbert Highland Stake.

The growth of EVMCO, reaching 600 members in the adult, youth and children's choirs and orchestra, and the response from Arizona audiences has been gratifying and instructive.

"What that shows is that there is definitely a need, a thirst, for high quality musical education and for refined music in the East Valley," says Brandon.

Choir members agree.

Michele Baer, well-known for her solo musical accomplishments, joined EVMCO with her husband, Sterling.

"There's something about the unification of sound of a good choir," she says, adding, "These directors are definitely raising the bar. To say practices are intense would be an understatement."

Photo by Steve Porter

The 600-member East Valley Mormon Choir Organization focuses on excellence in performance standards, while emphasizing top-level musical education among each of its groups, including its full orchestra and adult, youth and children's choirs.

The focus through it all is on education. "We use rehearsal sessions not only to teach and expose the singers to various sacred works and hymn arrangements, but also to teach the fundamentals of singing technique, conducting, and an appreciation of quality music."

"We treat this experience for adults as a graduate or post-graduate level course in music. We want people to push themselves and to grow as musicians. We want quality; we want refinement," Brandon says. "For three hours at Thursday-night practices, we work them to death."

Continued on pg. 18

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2011 Global Family Policy Forum Serves to Fortify Family-Friendly UN Delegates

Photo by Minnie Lawrence

LIGHT Entertainment performed a medley of songs from "Jungle Book" as they and other groups presented family-based entertainment for the 26 UN delegates and others participating in the 2011 Global Family Policy Forum held in Gilbert in January.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The list of governments represented read like a geography lesson, as diplomats from countries around the globe—including from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean Islands—met in Gilbert in January.

Included were 26 UN delegates, representing countries large and small, who gathered at the new Legado Hotel January 20 and 21 for the 2011 Global Family Policy Forum.

The Family Policy Forum was sponsored by Family Watch International (FWI), a Gilbert-based nonprofit organization that was co-founded by Sharon Slater, of the Gilbert 9th Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake. FWI, which has consultative status at the UN, is recognized for its efforts to protect and promote the family and family values at the UN, as well as at the national and local level.

The Forum was designed to help educate delegates and acquaint them with the social science data showing the dangers associated with the breakdown of the family.

Sharon Slater opened the Forum, explaining its purpose was to work together and "prepare to go on the offense" in protecting the family in UN negotiations.

"Everyone in this room is committed to protecting the institution of the family," she said. "Despite the fact that we are all from different cultures, different religions and faiths, the family is what unites us all. We all have a vested interest in protecting the family."

Sharon's remarks were followed by scholarly presentations by lawyers and experts, who shared current research, statistics and resources regarding a number of sensitive family issues that will be negotiated at the UN in 2011.

> ***"Despite the fact that we are all from different cultures, different religions and faiths, the family is what unites us all. We all have a vested interest in protecting the family."***

"Of grave concern to the UN delegates," explained Sharon Slater, "were recent attempts by developed countries, with the United States taking the lead, to pressure developing countries to change their laws and policies to accept and promote a number of controversial sexual rights. The delegates said they urgently needed the scientific information we presented regarding sexual orientation and homosexuality, as these are emerging issues in UN policy-making."

During their presentations, speakers shared conclusions regarding the family, saying: "We ignore the issue of the disintegration of the family at our own peril" and "No other effort is more important than doing something positive to protect the family."

That evening, attendees were treated to a catered dinner and family-focused entertainment, featuring local talent, including accomplished tenor George Dyer, LIGHT Entertainment, Jacob Sanchez performing a Native American hoop dance, Dezo and Donna McGill and the Dana and Adam Rodgers family.

On the second day, delegates discussed strategies for ensuring that the institution of the family will be recognized and respected in 2011 UN conference documents. Discussing the challenges of time constraints, lack of education, pressure from special interest groups and even from the U.S. government, the delegates talked about ways they could be better prepared to respond to the important family-based issues.

Throughout the conference, delegates acknowledged FWI and expressed gratitude for the information provided. One stated, "The service you have done for us is immeasurable."

Gilbert Mayor John Lewis, who hosted one of the delegates in his home and attended portions of the event said, "It was an honor to have representatives from all over the world attending the Forum in Gilbert and to have these leaders here talking about how to strengthen the family. One of the delegates commented to me, 'It feels good to be here.' That is a tribute to the entire East Valley and all those who organized the event."

Sharon Slater's book, Stand for the Family, outlines many of the issues discussed at the Forum, explaining how the family is being undermined and what can be done by individuals and families. To learn more, visit www.standforthefamily.org or www.familywatchinternational.org.

His Calling at the
Randolph House
Blesses Countless Lives Over the Past 18 Years

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Over 18 years ago, Carl Shelton of the Casa Grande 7th Ward, Casa Grande Stake, was called to a unique stake calling. He has not been released since. Brother Shelton was set apart to run a Sunday service for LDS residents of the Arizona Training Center, frequently referred to as the Randolph House.

Photo by Sandy Thomson

Carl Shelton, shown here hiking in the Grand Canyon, has had a calling for the past 18 years to run a Sunday service at the Arizona Training Center, known as the Randolph House.

The Arizona Training Center was created in the 1950s as a home for mentally and physically disabled children. No new residents have been admitted in the last 25 years, so those who remain are now grown and all over 40 years old. Brother Shelton lovingly calls them his "friends," not "residents."

With his wife, Gay, at his side, Carl started a program that would evolve into a wonderful spiritual experience for LDS youth in the surrounding areas. Drawing from 48 stakes on a rotating basis, Brother Shelton invites Young Men and Young Women and their leaders to come to the Center to assist with the Sunday meeting.

It takes at least 80 volunteers each Sunday. Before the meeting, the youth and their leaders are told what to expect and given some guidelines. Brother Shelton also shares inspiring stories and tells volunteers to follow the spirit. He explains that they may be impressed to hold their friend's hand, rub their arm or tell them a story. Carl says, "You never know what will get a reaction from them."

The youth begin by going out to the surrounding cottages to pick up their assigned friend for the meeting. Most of the friends are in wheelchairs; some even have their beds rolled out to the auditorium. Once in the auditorium, the youth sit with them and focus all their attention on them. Primary songs are sung. Some friends join in, some don't. Many do not even speak, but their eyes light up when they hear the songs and when someone pays attention to them.

Only about a dozen residents are LDS but, each Sunday, 70 to 75 people

Continued on pg. 18

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Randolph House Calling
Continued from pg. 17

attend the LDS services. After the meeting, the youth take their new friends back to their cottages and return to the auditorium for a testimony meeting.

Maya Brimhall, a Beehive, from the Salt River Ward, Citrus Heights Stake, says going to the Center, "was a really cool experience. It felt so spiritual. Even though most of the friends there couldn't really talk, they spoke with their eyes."

Stephen Smith, 14, of the Queen Creek Arizona Chandler Heights Stake says, "Being there helped me appreciate my blessings. I was impressed to see how much all the teens there care. It makes me feel good about my generation."

Maddy Whitlock, a Laurel, of the Greenfield 2nd Ward, Chandler East Stake, says volunteers receive much in return. "We were shown such unconditional love by the 'friends' there. Even the non-LDS 'friends' had such a strong spirit."

Brother Shelton claims he couldn't hope for a better calling. "I'll gladly serve another 18 years, if the Lord's willing and I am healthy enough to do so. The Lord knew what He was doing when he called me. For 10 years before my wife passed away, nearly four years ago, she suffered from Alzheimer's. My experience in dealing with my friends at the center helped me to develop patience and understanding for adults who exhibit childlike behaviors."

The Sheltons found the Church when they moved to Arizona from Michigan in the late '50s. They have four children and 17 grandchildren. Carl retired from APS 16 years ago. Now, at 76, he is in good health, and even hiked the Grand Canyon recently. He also rides horses, plays tennis twice a week and enjoys attending the temple.

He counts his good health and the love of his "friends" as some of his greatest blessings from this calling.

EVMCO Invited to Perform
Continued from pg. 15

The result, he says, is "We create really good music together. It's something people really can't grasp until they see us perform and hear it with their own ears."

With concerts that include hundreds of singers—adult, youth and children groups—and a full orchestra, the logistics require ultra-planning, but come off looking like a work of art.

The number one question Brandon hears is, "How did you get those kids to do that?" "My response is 'We ask them to.' We expect nothing less of them."

The ultimate goal, Brandon says, is to foster "a more cultured, musically sensitive generation of members of the Church and the community—one that will build music to a level of artistry that many of our latter-day prophets have foretold."

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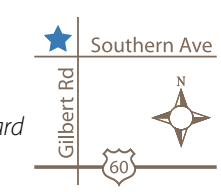

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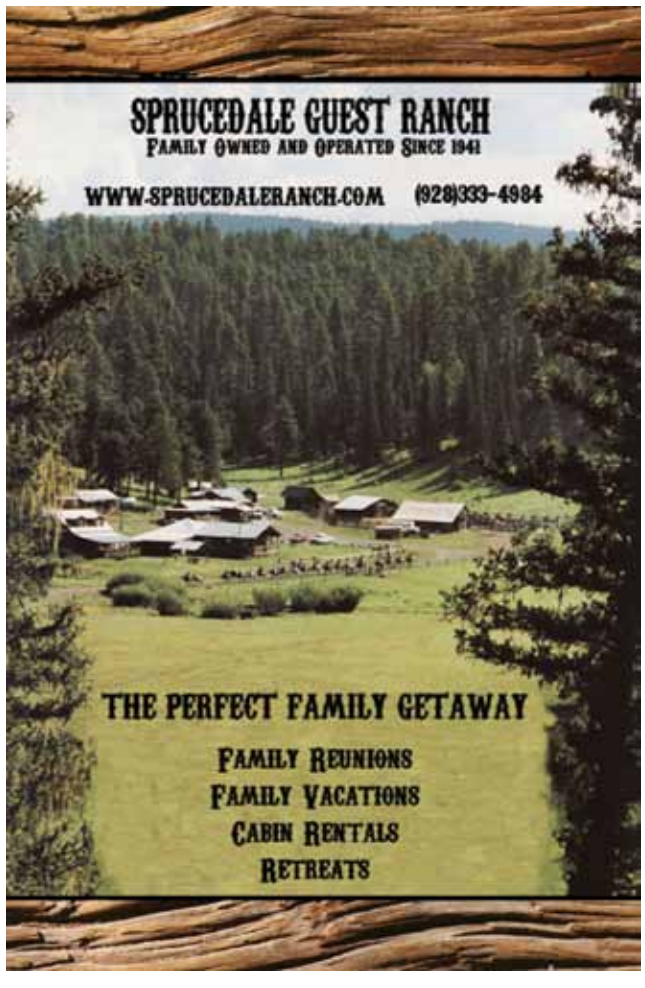
A majestic waterfall marks the entrance to Mountain View Funeral Home and Cemetery, which is heralded as one of the most beautiful in Phoenix and features 12 special gardens, including an LDS garden.

Photo courtesy of Mountain View Funeral Home

Mountain View

Funeral Home and Cemetery Marks 60th Anniversary

By Cecily Markland • The Beehive



For 60 years, families have found comfort and peace in the excellent service, affordable options, caring support and beautiful surroundings at Mountain View Funeral Home and Cemetery.

Established in 1951 by Albert M. Coury, Sr., it is still family-owned and operated under the direction of Albert's son, Daniel Coury, and his son, Greg Coury.

From a majestic waterfall entrance that is recognized as an East Mesa landmark, to the rich lawn that is green year round and hundreds of pine, olive and palm trees, Mountain View is heralded as the Valley's most beautiful cemetery. The 50-acre cemetery includes 19 mausoleums, a gated meditation alcove and waterfall in the Wall of Peace Mausoleum.

Twelve special gardens dot the grounds, including a Catholic, Christian and Masonic garden and, the newest, a garden dedicated to the Latter-day Saint faith.

"Basically, this is one way we are reaching out to the LDS community," says Clint Fontaine, sales and marketing director.

"We also have a beautiful granite memorial carved in the shape of the Mesa Temple," he says, "and we encourage anyone to bring drawings—say, of other temples—or other ideas for upright monuments, and we can have them made."

He says funeral services, too, are designed to be personal and meaningful, and are conducted with the greatest care and respect. "We truly help to honor the deceased, while supporting the family to alleviate fear and cope with death."

Caring and compassionate, the staff is also well-trained and professional. "For example, all of our funeral directors are licensed, meaning they have been to school and have served an apprenticeship. They are also licensed embalmers and licensed to do cremations," says Fontaine.

Mountain View has simplified the choices, while providing top-quality products at an excellent value. Full-service cremations are also available and done onsite.

Mountain View offers advance planning of cemetery plots and funerals both, and they encourage people to compare their cemetery and prices. "The value of our facilities and service are second to none!"

This year, to celebrate their 60th Anniversary, Mountain View will give additional discounts and specials throughout the year.

They also will continue to focus on relationships. Fontaine explains that all Mountain View employees are involved in the community and with service clubs. During this anniversary year and going forward, "We will continue to be responsive to the community and involved," he says.

In addition, special events will be staged throughout the year to encourage community members to visit the funeral home and cemetery. "And, we always offer tours," Fontaine says. "Any group that would like a tour can come and, based on the number of participants, a check is presented to the organization."

For details, go to www.mvfuneralhome.com or call 480-832-2850. Mountain View Funeral Home and Cemetery is located at 7900 E Main St., between Sossaman and Ellsworth, in Mesa.

New location offers same great products and tips for becoming

FoodWise

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Kristi and Brent Averett, owners of FoodWise, recently moved their business to a new and larger location in Chandler.

"We have better traffic access, more room for our cooking class and warehouse—and it's quieter," says Kristi.

The Averetts, members of Western Skies Ward, Gilbert Greenfield Stake, started FoodWise two years ago. Kristi had researched available year's supply foods, couldn't find the level of quality she felt was important, so they started their own store.

"We're very focused on health and nutrition," says Brent.

They offer the largest selection of freeze-dried fruit, vegetables and dairy products in the United States, including corn, jalapenos, strawberries, raspberries, powdered lime juice and soy milk. FoodWise carries raw honey; agave nectar; organic TVP in flavors like chicken, pepperoni, sloppy Joe and taco and a wide selection of grains. They feature their own blend of gluten-free flour, Ezekiel mix and 16-grain mix for breads and organic spices—all in top-quality, reusable PETE containers that are made for long-term food storage.

"We have a patent pending on the seal process," says Kristi. "We carry them in pints, quarts, half-gallons and gallons. We can seal foods that last as long as in a #10 can."

For gardeners and homemakers, FoodWise has Blendtec products, bread pans, kitchen gadgets, pressure cookers, seed-sprouting trays and heirloom organic non-hybrid seeds.

Campers and hikers enjoy their snack foods, one-dish servings and prepared meals, such as granola with milk and blueberries, macaroni and cheese, pasta primavera and chili.

From an American company that buys from local farmers, their foods are free of pesticides, E-coli, salmonella and listeria. Once purchased, the foods are washed, prepared, and flash frozen to -80 degrees. Then approximately 98 percent of the water is extracted.

"All the food is freeze-dried within 36 hours of picking; it's all organic," says Brent. "What you're left with is pure, unadulterated, vine-ripened food," says Kristi. "It rehydrates in about a minute. It's absolutely delicious and has all its natural enzymes and nutrition in it."

Photo by Tina Scott

At FoodWise, owners Brent and Kristi Averett not only sell year's supply foods, they offer a variety of special diet items such as gluten-free products, soy milk, Stevia and agave nectar.

Every Wednesday at 6 p.m., and repeated Thursdays at noon, Kristi gives free classes in how to cook with a base of beans, grain or rice. Each month a different base food is spotlighted. The menu changes weekly and features two salads, an entrée and a dessert.

"We ask that you do RSVP, because we can only seat about 50," Kristi says.

Breadmaking, with different types of fresh-ground grains, is demonstrated on Saturdays at 2 p.m.

FoodWise now accepts government SNAP benefits. Their store, at the new location—395 E. Warner Rd, Suite 1—is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To order online, visit www.foodwisestorage.com. To register for classes, go online or call 480-626-5277.

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Tucson Mother of Two POUNDS Out Bad Habit

Photo courtesy of Sherry Whetten

Tucson LDS mother of two, Sherry Whetten, in the ring at the Gene Lewis Invitational.

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Immersed in a personal battle for years, Tucson wife and mother of two, from Lakeside Ward, Tucson East Stake, took her fight to a different front—into the boxing ring—and found she's emerging a winner on both fronts.

Over the years, Sherry Whetten had made several attempts to break her cigarette addiction. Boxing, she decided was going to be her new line of defense.

In 2005, she began training, had her first gym fight in the summer of 2006 and was ready to begin her amateur career in the spring of 2007.

Her training was put on hold after becoming pregnant with her second child. Then, a series of health problems after his birth kept her from the gym. It took several months to rebuild her strength and conditioning, but, in March 2009, she was ready for her first amateur fight.

Again, however, her progress was thwarted when she sustained a jaw fracture in a sparring match just nine days prior to the fight. She now says this setback was a blessing in disguise. During surgery to fix her jaw, doctors discovered a cyst had developed and dissolved over half the bone. Had it gone undiagnosed, she says, "My non-medically trained mind can't even speculate on what could have happened."

An additional blessing came from her broken jaw; as it led to her meeting and ultimately training with Tony Contreras. She went from a no-name athlete to taking 3rd in a national championship sponsored by the Police Athletic League.

When Contreras passed away a short time later, she found another coach in Guadalupe and now trains three days is Tucson then commutes in Phoenix to train twice a week, in an effort to make it to the Olympics in 2012.

As her boxing career soars, her personal fight is succeeding as well.

She admits, "This adventure would have ended four or five times over had I relinquished control of the circumstances to Heavenly Father."

"To be tried and tested in various ways and feel like I am amidst a monumental, never-ending trial as I pursue my passion has taught me that conviction in anything, gospel related or not, begs for opposition and the most subtle of things become the greatest hurdles. This realization has exposed private ways in which I remember to call upon my Savior sooner and more fervent-

Continued on pg. 24

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Arizona Saints

STAY UPBEAT

in Today's Economic Downturn

Latter-day Saints in Arizona say gospel principles including obedience, prayer, faith, thrift and service have helped them weather the economic downturn.

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Victor and Evelyn Petersen, of the Ray Ward, Gilbert Greenfield Stake, are parents of four married children, one who is away at college, and three still at home; and have 21 grandchildren.

Evelyn says they knew a downturn was imminent, "but not to the extent that it turned."

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Shown with 12-year-old piano student, Brittni Allen, is Vicky Burkinshaw, of the Citrus Heights Stake, who has put her talents and strengths to use, teaching piano and tutoring elementary school children, to weather the current economic downturn.

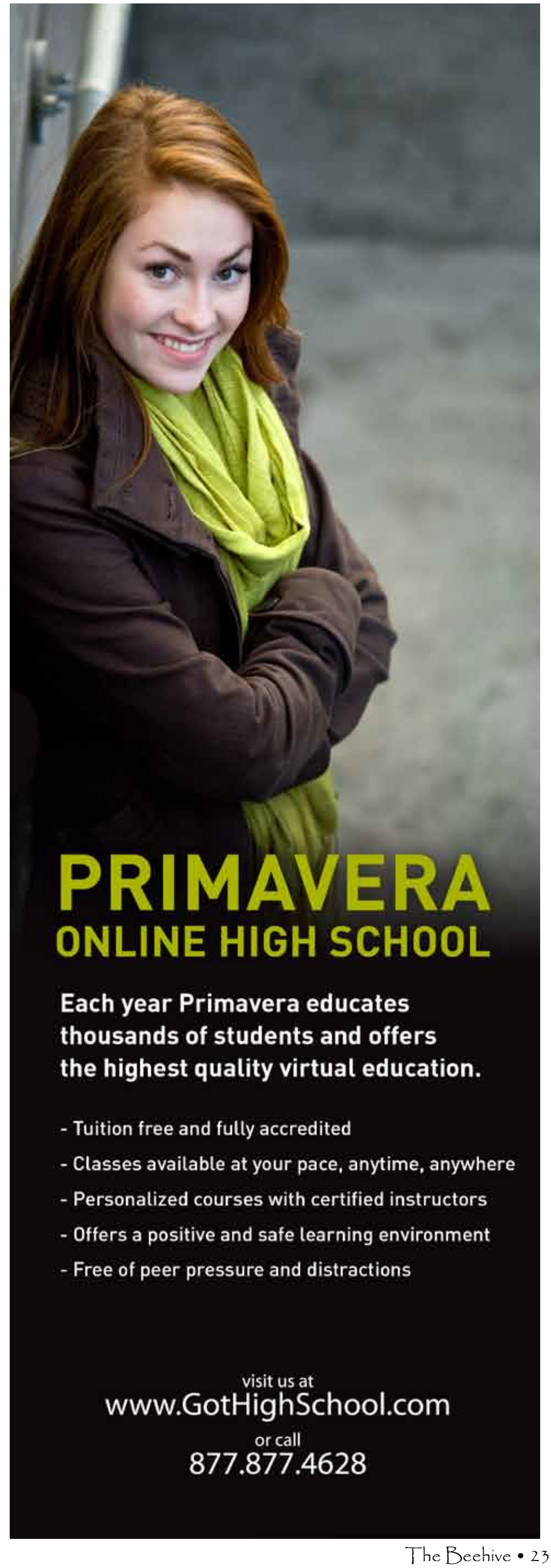
The Petersens had listened to the warnings of modern-day-prophets. "We had no personal debt when the crash hit. Even in the 'high' times, we baked our own bread from stored wheat weekly. We also cooked meals from scratch and seldom ate out. Using simple, basic foods allows us to continually replenish the items we use, and maintain that level of security for the future, even though our budget is tight," Evelyn says.

Gospel principles have helped the Petersens in their business as well as home life. They are owners of VIP Homes and, although they have been affected by the economy, they feel blessed.

"We have been reminded of what matters most to us. Despite it being a very stressful time, we feel continually grateful that we are able to meet our obligations and continue in our profession," Evelyn says.

They have tried to look for places to save costs, and, Sister Petersen says.

Continued on pg. 24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AZ Saints Stay Upbeat
Continued from pg. 23

"All of our family members from young to old pray for the Lord to lead our decisions. There have been many priesthood blessings and family fasts, and 'celebration' potlucks when a particular challenge is overcome."

Service has helped them as well.

"Serving others gives us the chance to forget ourselves and our troubles for a time," Evelyn says.

Vicky Burkinshaw of the Avalon Ward, Citrus Heights Stake, has curtailed all unnecessary spending, especially big ticket items. "I have an 18-year-old 200,000-mile vehicle that isn't stylish, but I'm able to keep it running. I avoid driving as much as possible and combine my errands together. I am more creative in paying my mortgage and bills. Our faith has increased as we follow the prophet's admonition to be prepared and get out of debt which is a challenge in this economy but we are doing it," she says.

Sister Burkinshaw has put her talents and strengths to use. "I teach piano. I'm a former elementary school principal so now I tutor children."

Food storage is also an important key for Vicky's family. "We found that our food storage lacked things we like so we have changed our purchasing habits to include these," says Sister Burkinshaw.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

The Petersen family, including (back r to l) Warren, Ammon and (front r to l) mom Evelyn, dad Vic and Victor, have included prayer, correct principles, obedience to the prophet, and service as they have looked for ways to keep their family and their business secure during the current economic downturn.

"I use prayer, reasoning, hard work and a positive attitude. It is exhilarating to put on my dancing shoes and not just survive this economy, but enjoy each and every day. I have found the truth in the saying, 'the best helping hand is at the end of your own arm,'" she says.

Sister Petersen agrees, saying, "Hard times are an opportunity to see the hand of the Lord. When it seems like the day is too much to face, we have learned to cry out for the same kind of support from the Lord the Nephites desired 'for our homes and our liberties, our wives and our children.' He has never failed to answer those cries with courage, with new ideas, and with the opening of opportunities to move forward."

Tuscon Mother of Two
Continued from pg. 22

ly than before," Stacey says.

She reaffirms her belief in prayer, saying, "The more I talk to Him, the closer I get to Him. The more I talk to Him the stronger my habit becomes to turn to Him immediately rather than wait for things to sort themselves out."

Stacey stays close to her family while pursuing her boxing goals. She volunteers at her daughter's school class, takes her youngest with her to Phoenix, and weekends are family time. She says her husband, Clint, "is definitely my biggest fan! There are three times that I can remember…in which I was ready to throw the towel in and he delivered the motivational speech of the century. Without his support I wouldn't be doing this."

Sister Whetten says her friends at Precious Treasures Child Care and the staff at Guadalupe Boxing have also contributed to her success. In April, she will compete in the Golden Glove Tournament in Indianapolis, an Olympic box-off qualifier. Competing at this level comes with a cost of $2,000, which means she and her teammates must find sponsors. Just another trial to overcome, Sherry adds, "Boxing has nothing to do with eternal salvation but I love it and my Savior loves me and wants me to be happy so He will offer the guidance and support I need as I ask for it."

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Tiger Fundraising Aims to Raise Heart Failure Awareness

When her father was suffering with heart failure and needed a mechanical heart device, Jasmine Tiger, of Queen Creek, began an effort that would not only help her father but would assist others in need as well.

She started Tiger Fundraising in 2009, raised enough so her father now has the Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) he needed, and now continues to work to raise awareness about heart failure and to raise funds to help others.

Tiger Fundraising is currently accepting donations and or services. They also have merchandise for sale, such as fashion rings that are made in Hawaii and do not tarnish or turn the finger green. They also sell flower hair clips and sterling silver. During February, which is Heart Awareness Month, the Tiger Fundraising website hosted a month-long raffle and other events. Check the site for future specials.

Jasmine says, "We do this while, at the same time, meeting amazing people and sharing our knowledge about heart failure with them," says Jasmine.

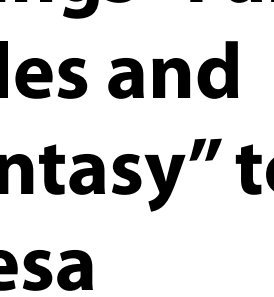
She adds, "I want to make heart failure awareness as big as breast cancer awareness." To learn more, visit: www.tigerfundraising.com.

BYU Theater and Ballet brings "Fairy Tales and Fantasy" to Mesa

BYU Theater and Ballet will perform "Fairy Tales and Fantasy: An Evening of Ballet Classics" in Mesa on March 10. The show is designed to give audiences an opportunity to experience the magic and beauty of classical ballet with selections from *Romeo & Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella*.

The event will be held at the Mesa Arts Center, 1 East Main Street in Mesa, at 7 p.m. Before the show, will be a free meet and greet party for all young "princes and princesses" who wish to meet the dancers. For the meet and greet, light refreshments will be served and photo opportunities will be available. The party will be from 6 to 6:30 p.m. in the outdoor courtyard near the lobby to the Piper Theater. Children are encouraged to dress in royal attire if they so desire.

Ballet tickets are available through Mesa Arts Center, by calling 480-644-6500 or going to mesaartscenter.com to purchase online. Tickets are $15 until February 28 and $18 after that date.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Queen Creek ARTIST Follows His Faith

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Tyson Snow, a member of the Sierra Ranch Ward in the Queen Creek East Stake, has held many jobs in his lifetime, but he always knew he was meant to be an artist. On a leap of faith, he moved his wife and children across the country to Arizona, just so he could be closer to the fine art galleries of Scottsdale.

He managed to get a few pieces placed in a gallery, and they sold right away. He decided to create his own show, which also went very well. Then came the decline of the economy a few years ago. "Unfortunately, fine art is a luxury item which is the first thing people stop buying when times are tough, and, eventually, it did not make sense for the gallery to keep me on. Unbeknownst to us at the time, this would become the beginning of the greatest blessings we have ever experienced," Brother Snow says.

In faith, he again turned it over to the Lord, then turned his home garage into a studio and began working from there.

"We began trying harder to live, more fully, the way the Lord expects us to live. I was given a situation where, being at home, I have the freedom of listen to spiritual music, conference talks and devotionals while painting or sculpting. Our family has seen firsthand the blessing of trying the Lord by paying an honest tithe. There have been many occasions where we knew if we paid tithing, there would be nothing left to pay the bills or nothing left for food, etc. As many times as we made the decision to be obedient, we have been blessed with a freelance project that has come just in time."

While he enjoys most mediums of art, his obvious focus is on work opportunities available. The galleries are drawn to his white pencil on black board drawings, but this last year he has worked exclusively on a large public bronze project for the city of Phoenix fire department.

"Most of what inspires the work I do; [besides his commissioned work] are things of a spiritual

Continued on pg. 29

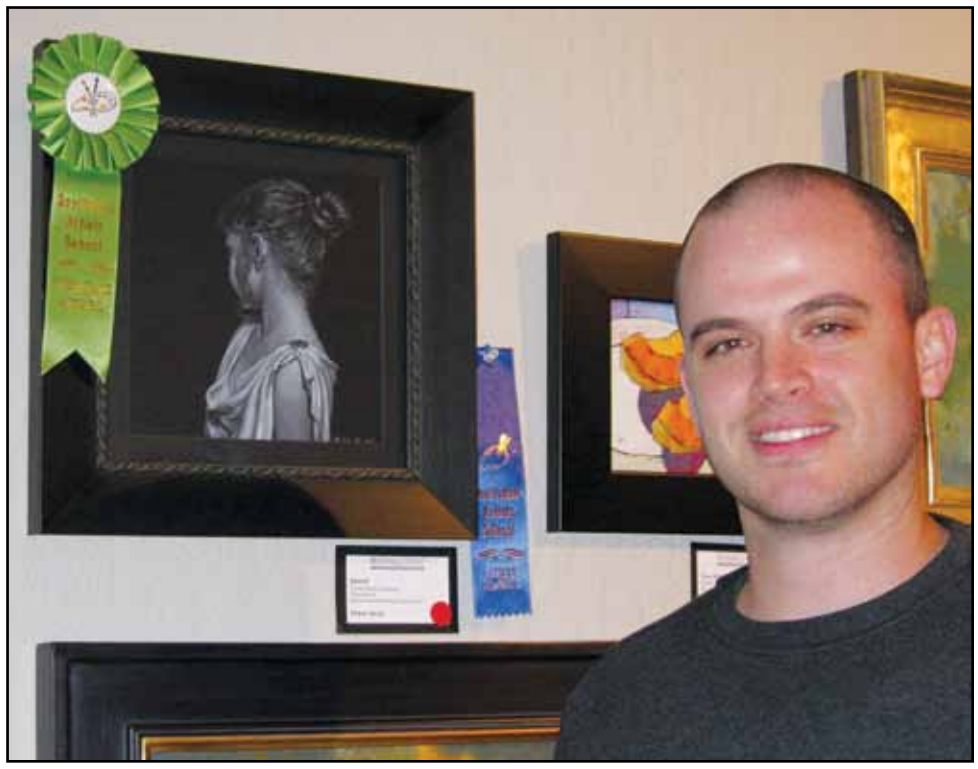
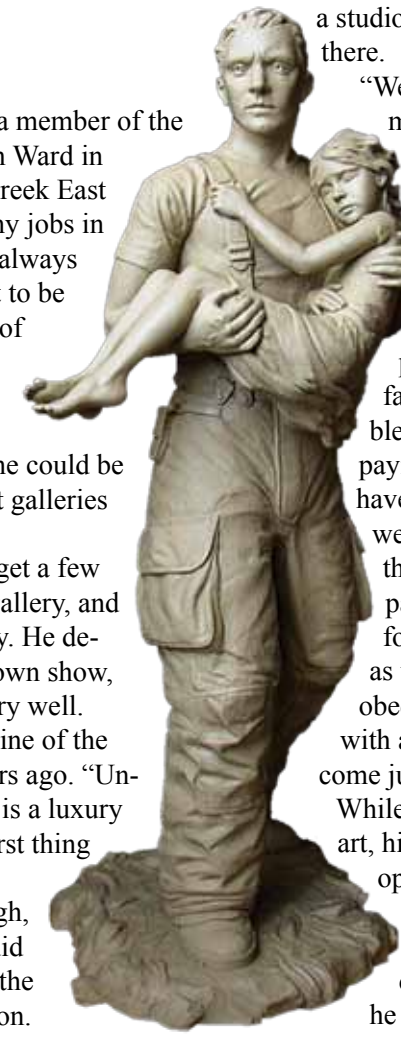


Photo courtesy of Tyson Snow

Artist Tyson Snow with his piece titled "Sarah," which won first place in the Scottsdale Artist School's Annual "Best and Brightest" exhibition and sale.



In pieces like this, titled "Rescue," Tyson Snow demonstrates his abiltity to create works that are aesthetically pleasing, while conveying a deeper message for those who recognize the symbolism.

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New Oral Surgeon in Mesa

Offers Care, Comfort & Commitment

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

Born in Arizona and raised in Mesa, Dr. Edward H. Christensen is glad to be back home. He completed his doctorate of dental surgery at the University of Colorado School of Dentistry, where he graduated magna cum laude. After completing his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Christensen chose to return to his roots. He set up his dental practice in Mesa, right across the street from his former high school of Mountain View.

His practice is called Oral and Maxillofacial Associates of Arizona and has been in operation for six months. In a beautiful office located at Lindsay and Brown roads, Dr. Christensen's patients will find a tastefully-decorated office, accented with art by local artists.

Even more important, visitors to Dr. Christensen's office will find a friendly staff. Their focus is on Care, Comfort, and Commitment. Indeed, what sets Dr. Christensen and his staff apart is their dedication to providing quality care in a relaxed setting. As stated on their website, "We understand how people feel when it comes to dental procedures of any kind, and are committed to every patient's well-being and quality of care.'

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At Oral and Maxillofacial Associates of Arizona, the most advanced technology is employed in the diagnosis and treatment of wisdom teeth removal, dental implants, TMJ disorders, corrective jaw surgery and facial reconstruction. Dr. Christensen specializes in Level 1 facial trauma and is on call at local hospitals 10 days a month. He instructs oral and maxillofacial residents at Banner Good Samaritan Hospital as well.

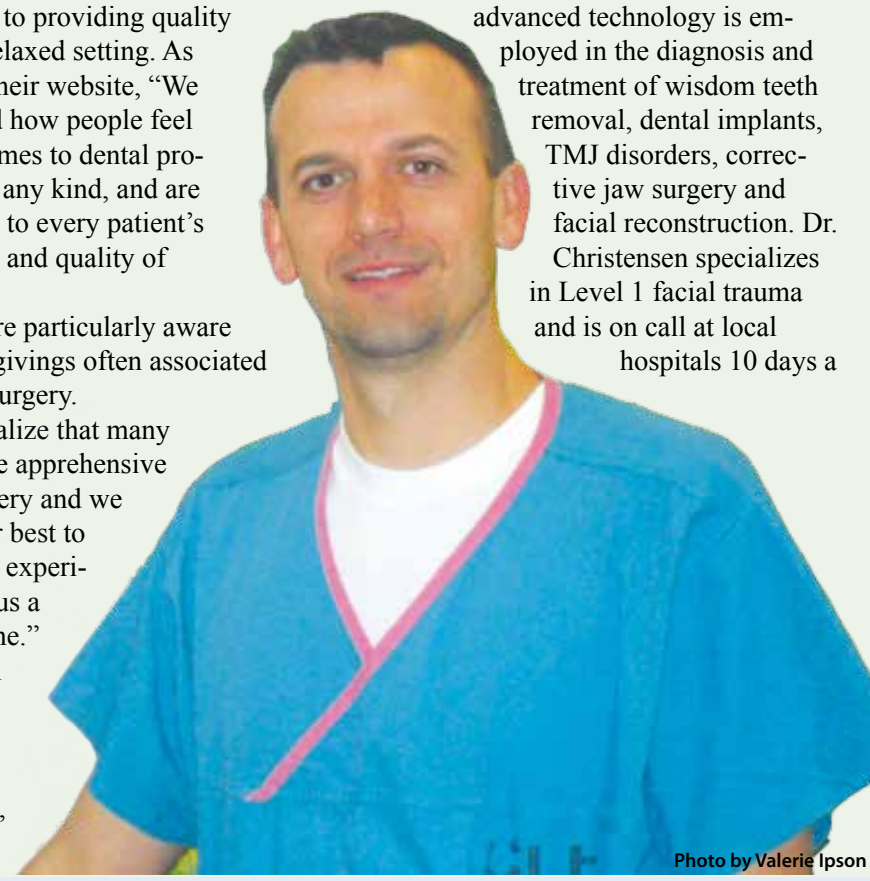

Photo by Valerie Ipson

Dr. Christensen says his work at area hospitals is important to him. "I had a great childhood here and I feel strongly about community and family. Being able to contribute in this way is a way to give back to the community," he says.

He loves Arizona and particularly Mesa. "I wanted my kids to have the same opportunities that I had growing up here," he says.

Dr. Christensen and his wife, Jillian, are members of the Greenfield Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake. They have four children ranging in age from eight to six months. Dr. Christensen serves with the Young Men in his ward and coaches his son's basketball team.

To contact Oral and Maxillofacial Associates of Arizona at their office, call 480-659-5977 or visit their website at www.omaarizona.com.

After completing his doctorate of dental surgery at the University of Colorado School of Dentistry, Dr. Edward H. Christensen returned to his roots to set up his oral and maxillofacial dentistry practice in Mesa.

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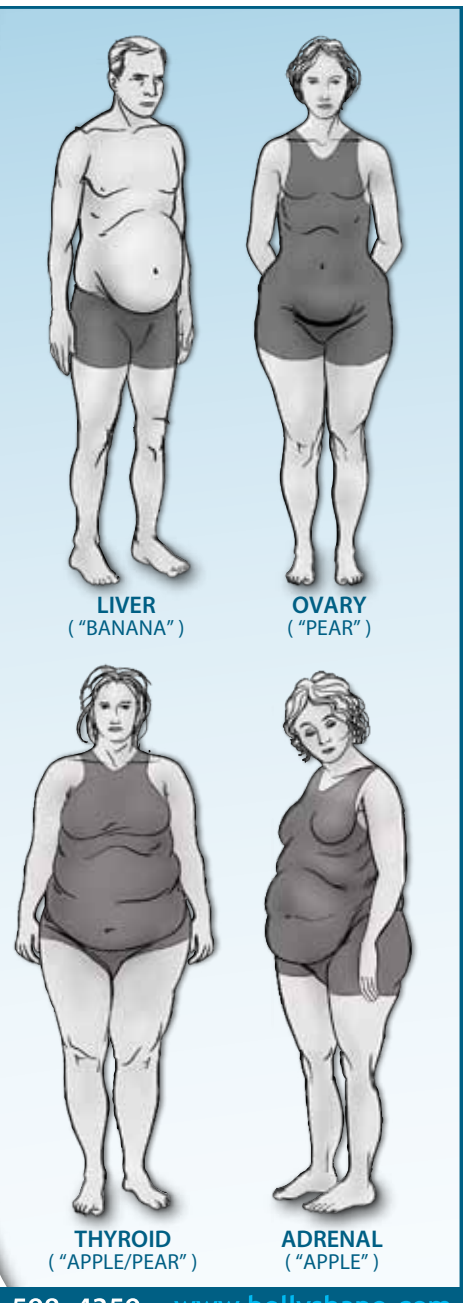

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Photo courtesy of Holt Hamilton Productions, Jake Johnson photographer.

On a shoot for Holt Hamilton Productions are film crew members, (l to r) Alonso Parra, Kree "Kool" Johns, Donovan Barney, Director/Director of Photography Travis Holt Hamilton, Skyler Tulley and Peterson Bronson.

LDS Filmmaker Shoots to Make a Difference

Young, award-winning LDS filmmaker, Travis Hamilton, hopes the real-life stories he tells will touch the hearts of his viewers.

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

His films include documentaries, mockumentaries, humorous films and more. Filmmaking didn't occur to him as a career until he had a college roommate who was going into film. Now he produces films fulltime with the company he founded in 1998, Holt Hamilton Productions.

Travis came to Arizona by way of Twin Falls, Idaho. His first trip to Arizona was when he was a priest and his quorum came on a Super Activity to the Grand Canyon. Serving from 1996 to 1998 in the New Mexico Albuquerque Mission brought him to Arizona once again where he served on the Navajo Reservation. Travis came to love the Navajo people, and, once he got home, all he could think about was how to get back to Arizona.

After his mission, Travis was attending Utah Valley State College when his sister, who lives in Arizona, invited him to stay with them until he got settled. He started at Mesa Community College, met his wife, Rebekah, and transferred to Scottsdale Community College for the excellent film program offered there. Currently, Brother and Sister Hamilton and their four children reside in the Southern Estates Ward, Kimball Arizona Stake.

Thus far, most of Brother Hamilton's films have focused on the Native American community, particularly the Navajos. Holt Hamilton Productions is branching out and recently spent two weeks filming in Ghana, West Africa. According to the company's mission statement: "We aim to share the highest quality entertainment value possible to the under-served indigenous communities of the world." Ultimately, he says, his goal is to help get rid of false stereotypes that cause misunderstandings.

Three feature films from Holt Hamilton Productions have made it to limited engagements on the big screen. All are now available on DVD: *Turquoise Rose, Blue Gap Boy'z,* and *Pete & Cleo.* Their next major release will be *More Than Frybread*,

Continued on pg. 29

LDS Filmmaker
Continued from pg. 28

a mockumentary that follows five participants—each from a different reservation and tribe—in the "First Annual Arizona State Frybread Championships."

Travis likes to spend time with the family; playing games, going on walks and traveling to new places. He loves to see new cultures. He is the Cub Scoutmaster in his ward and received leader training at Wood Badge. A couple of his ancestors were in the Mormon Battalion so he's quite interested in their stories and is getting involved in the Arizona unit of the Mormon Battalion.

In the interest of sharing ideas and expertise, Travis reaches out to other filmmakers. He makes his fully stocked van available for film crews to rent and he also does freelance work, having recently worked with the BCC. He offers four workshops to help independent filmmakers learn the tools that would enable them to tell stories of their own. See http://hhprod.com/ under "Film Program" for details. Website visitors also can sign up to be on a mailing list to be notified of upcoming projects and where to see the next Holt Hamilton Productions film.

Queen Creek Artist
Continued from pg. 26

nature, things that we understand as Latter-day Saints. These may include scriptures or quotes from the brethren that inspire symbolic or figurative images. I attempt to create works of art that are, on the surface, beautiful and aesthetically pleasing to the general public, but mean something more and have a message for those who understand them. The language of the spirit is symbolism, so I do my best to speak to things that have an eternal nature with symbolic force in art."

Tyson recently received a Merit award for an oil painting in the Springville Museum's Annual "Religious Art" juried exhibition in Utah and first place for a white-on-black drawing in the Scottsdale Artist School's Annual "Best and Brightest" exhibition and sale.

Tyson is inspired by the human form and his art is filled with symbolism from the scriptures. He hopes in the future to be "creating works that speak to my testimony of the restored gospel and trying to devote all my time, energy and talent to the building of the kingdom in my own meager way."

He is currently represented by the Marshall-Leake Gallery in Scottsdale and the Meyer Gallery in Santa Fe and more of his art can be found at www.tysonsnow.com.

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Jester'z Improv Comedy Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Laughter

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Jef Rawls, who, with his wife, Shurlin, owns and operates Jester'z Improv Comedy, is happy to be celebrating their 10th Anniversary in the business of hilarity, says, "It's a good business, one that makes people laugh and that, ultimately makes life a little better."

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Celebrating 10 years of marriage this March, Jef and Shurlin Rawls are also marking the 10-year anniversary of Jester'z Improv Comedy, the business they own together and one that continues to grow in size and scope as it delights audiences of all ages.

"We actually decided to do this business while we were on our honeymoon," Jef says.

An experienced actor, he had been doing improv comedy for five years. "I was working as an assistant to my mentor, coach and friend—Louis Anthony Russo. When he passed away at the end of 2000, his theater sort of fell into my lap. The choice was to close up shop or find a way to make it work."

The Rawls decided to make a go of it. Their theater quickly became known as the home of the funniest shows in town—all with family-friendly hilarity. The shows are all-new each time, with bits made up on the spot using suggestions from the audience. A favorite for birthday parties, family outings or date nights, Jester'z has shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 and 10 p.m. and the recently added 6 p.m. show on Saturdays.

They enlarged the theater a few years ago and recently remodeled again, adding a new lobby, larger snack bar area and more seating.

In addition to live shows, the Jester'z are state-wide favorites for corporate events and conferences. Jester'z also offers beginning to advanced-level improv comedy classes and workshops, private coaching and teen improv classes.

Last year, the Rawls opened Jester'z Performing Arts near Greenfield and Brown in Mesa. Primarily a training center, this location offers improv classes as well as traditional acting, audition techniques and on-camera classes that will draw from Jef's 20-year acting experience that includes 35 commercials, some films and TV shows.

For information, including a class schedule, visit www.jesterzimprov.com. For show reservations, call 480-423-0120.

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Mesa Octogenarian Publishes

HUMOROUS MEMOIRS

Life, for octogenarian author, Anna Arnett, is a triumph over pessimism—so much so that other women often tell her, "When I grow up, I want to be just like you."

Photo by Mark Arnett

At 86, mother, grandmother and great grandmother Anna Arnett recently published her first book, Lolly's Yarn, a memoir about her life and her 62-year marriage to her eternal companion, Charles Arnett.

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

The 86-year-old mother, grandmother and great grandmother recently published her first book, *Lolly's Yarn*, a memoir about her life alongside her great love and eternal companion, Charles Arnett.

With a title taken from her childhood nickname, "Anna Lolly," Sister Arnett spins a yarn of her 62-year marriage to Charles, who she met while he was in pilot training in 1943.

"I've tried to write my memoirs like a novel, but I can't seem to change the plot," she laughs, adding, "I want to be known a hundred years hence by more than a name and date, so I wrote a book. It must work. Nephi wrote a couple. Sam didn't."

It has taken a lifetime to complete the first of three volumes. "I've fine-honed the art of procrastination. I live a busy life, and I'm addicted to crafts and reading," says Sister Arnett. She serves as the Sacrament meeting chorister in the El Dorado Ward, Stapley Stake.

Sister Arnett's cheerful and often humorous attitude is evident as she writes of living without a door in the middle bedroom of her in-laws' home, of moving 29 times, and of learning to cope when left behind for year-long Air Force assignments to Iceland and Vietnam.

Though Charles has now passed away, their romance has not ended. Sister Arnett feels Charles is just on another overseas assignment, and they will be together once more.

A child of the Great Depression and World War II, Sister Arnett loves life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness through service. With deep faith and self-confidence, she responds to, "How are you?" with, "I'm happy."

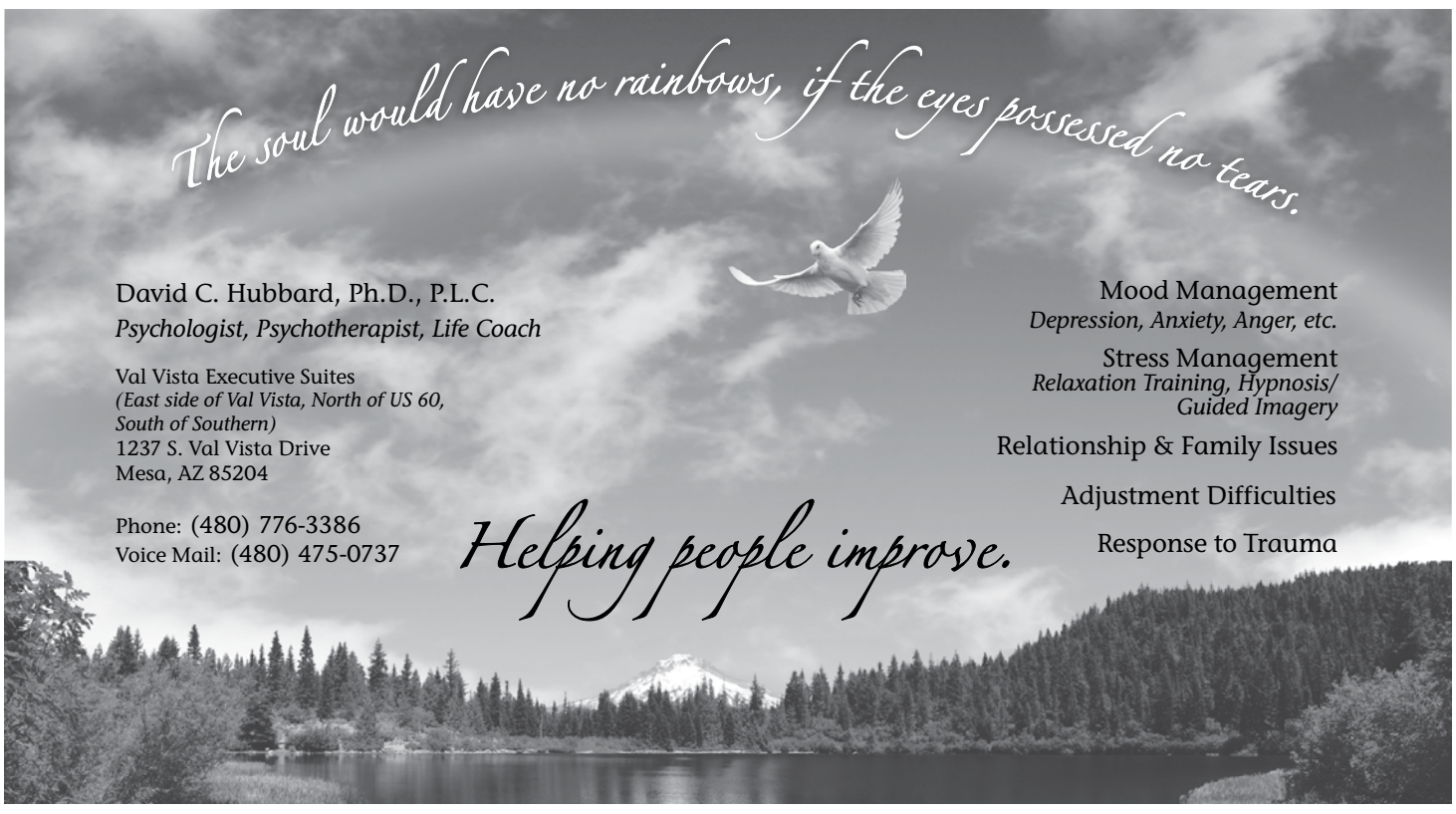
"My best education comes from a life-long enrollment in UM & HK: University of Mortality and Hard Knocks. I especially enjoyed classes in Marriage Forever, and in Motherhood 101, a class I repeated for credit seven times," she says.

"I scored high in Becoming a Military Wife and Moving Often. My two courses in Coping as a Single Mother while Husband Was Overseas were mandatory, not electives," Sister Arnett says.

Sister Arnett completed a bachelor's and master's degree in teaching secondary English, both from Arizona State. For 16 years she taught and directed a school for pregnant students in the Mesa Arizona School District. "I am still a student, and I long to earn a PhD," she says.

She believes, "Everybody who has ever entered mortality has a unique story to tell. It's simply a matter of learning how to tell it."

The delightful memoire, *Lolly's Yarn*, is available on Anna's website: www.annaarnett.com and at Amazon.com.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My Prodigal Story

Shares Message of Hope, Healing and Returning Home

By Cecily Markland
The Beehvie

In 2008, known as "Kurt Kruzer," he thought he was on top of the world.

"I thought I had it made," he says. "I was part owner of the hottest nightclub around. We were making good money. I had worked in radio in the Twin Falls, Idaho, market for years and had claimed the spot as the number one radio personality for several years in a row. I was doing TV commercials for a car dealer. I was bringing big name concerts into the area. I had a beautiful girlfriend. Everywhere I went, people knew who I was, and they knew that I was the guy who made things happen."

"In my arrogance, I did not see who I really was."

Who he really was—Kirk B. Johnson—had been born and raised as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He had graduated from high school in North Dakota, served an LDS mission to the England Manchester Mission, had married and had children—two sons, Kruz and Jett, and one daughter, Quin.

Yet, he had wandered from the light of the gospel, and for 22 years, sought the spotlight and a life of partying and pleasure.

Now, in his recently released book, *My Prodigal Story,* Kirk shares his story of rescue and of returning to full fellowship. Having tried and failed before to change his life, he tells what penetrated through the darkness and ultimately brought about his "mighty change of heart."

Brother Johnson, now a member of the Power Ranch Second Ward, San Tan Stake, says, "I felt prompted to write this book when I first had my experience of awakening. I felt it was something Heavenly Father wanted me to do so it could help other people."

Kirk poured out his own experiences on the pages, and added words from modern-day prophets and apostles and from the scriptures he was reading daily with his children. The result is a handbook of sorts, a description of how to access the Savior's healing power and accept His love.

"I hope people will feel the spirit with which I wrote it," he says. "I especially hope it will help people like me to know that you can do it. I hope it will help family members to understand and to look at 'prodigals' in their family differently."

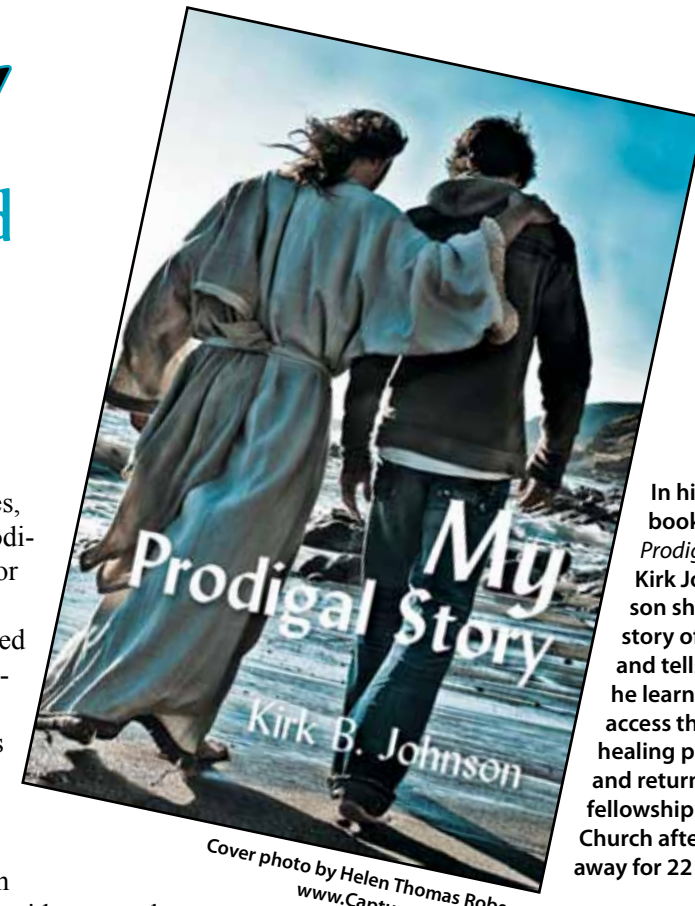
"It is also a great book for youth, so they can see how to avoid making the mistakes I made and, instead, to always walk in the light," Kirk says. "Really, it's for every one of us, to help us refocus and to strengthen our testimony of the Savior."

My Prodigal Story is already touching hearts and changing lives.

"A friend of mine stayed up all night to read it. He is not a member of the Church, but said he was very impressed, said it was inspiring and very encouraging."

Another woman, an author herself, said she began reading with critical eye. "But, when she finished, she could only say how much she loved it."

My Prodigal Story is available in LDS bookstores, at www.MyProdigalStory.com, or Amazon.com. Kirk is interested in hearing feedback about his book as well as others' stories of rescue and returning, or to schedule him to speak at a fireside or youth conference, e-mail kirk@MyProdigalStory.com.



Cover photo by Helen Thomas Robson, www.CapturedMiracles.org

In his new book, *My Prodigal Story,* Kirk Johnson shares a story of hope and tells how he learned to access the Savior's healing power and returned to full fellowship in the Church after being away for 22 years.

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LDS Singers

Harmonize in the Traditional

Barbershop Style

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Members of the Church who participate in the East Valley Lamplighters Barbershop Chorus, singing the traditional four-part "close harmony" of the barbershop style, include (left to right) Rod Cardon, Dale Weatherford, Shaun Scott and Jerry Fox. Not pictured is Ron Steen.

Just as he has for the past 35 years, Jerry Fox, of the McQueen 3rd Ward, Chandler Stake, spends a part of every week in harmony.

That is, Jerry, along with a handful of other members of the Church, participate with the East Valley Lamplighters Barbershop Chorus and Quartets, to sing the traditional four-part, "close harmony" of the barbershop style.

"When I was 15, I went with my friend to his dad's barbershop chorus, and I've been singing ever since," he says.

With traditional favorites like, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," and "Down by the Old Mill Stream," the barbershop style is considered "a true American art form," Jerry says. "Barbershop offers g-rated entertainment, with songs that are typically about romance, family, God and country."

"It's music in a very pure form created with nothing but human voices coming together to create a rich and satisfying texture that is pleasing to the ears and invigorating to the soul," states The Barbershop Harmony Society website. Founded in 1938, the Society is the parent organization to groups like the Lamplighters, and is the largest all-male singing organization in the world.

Barbershop also is popular among women's groups, known as Sweet Adelines (see www.sweetadelineintl.org/) and even among youth singers. A primary focus of the Lamplighters is raising funds for scholarships that will allow young men to sing barbershop.

"Everybody seems to like it," says Ron Steen, of the Skyline Ward, Queen Creek Stake, who has been a barbershopper for the past 33 years, including with choruses in San Diego, Germany and Sweden. "Anyone who has had a bad day or anything like that, by the time you get into the chorus, they feel better."

"Some call it a 'ministry,'" Rod Cardon says. "The reason they do is this music helps people to light up and to feel better. They just light up and feel happy when they hear it."

Rod is a member of the Cornerstone Ward, Mesa North Stake, and, at 81, is the oldest of the Lamplighters. He says his favorite times are when they have given service at rest homes or when they go to individuals' homes to deliver singing "Singing Valentines."

The Lamplighters offer a "non-pressurized, positive environment, where "everybody who wants to sing can have a chance to sing."

While the style requires discipline and a practiced ear, singers who don't sight read as well can learn their parts from CDs. The key is to learn to listen, says Shaun Scott, of the Park Center Ward, Mesa Stake.

"It's challenging. You start with only a pitch pipe, so you have to be on your toes and really listen to each other in order to blend right and not overwhelm the others."

Shaun adds that the hard work creates camaraderie.

"It's kind of universal way of uniting people," Shaun says. "I feel blessed to have a voice to be able to do it," he says.

Jerry agrees, saying, "It's a real joy to be involved in this hobby."

The group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday at the Eternal Life Lutheran Church, 7025 E. Main Street in Mesa. New barbershoppers are welcome.

The Lamplighters' annual show will be held at the Eternal Life Church at 4 p.m. March 12. For information, visit www.evbarbershop.com or call 480-615-SING(7464).

To learn about other choruses or quartets, visit www.barbershop.org

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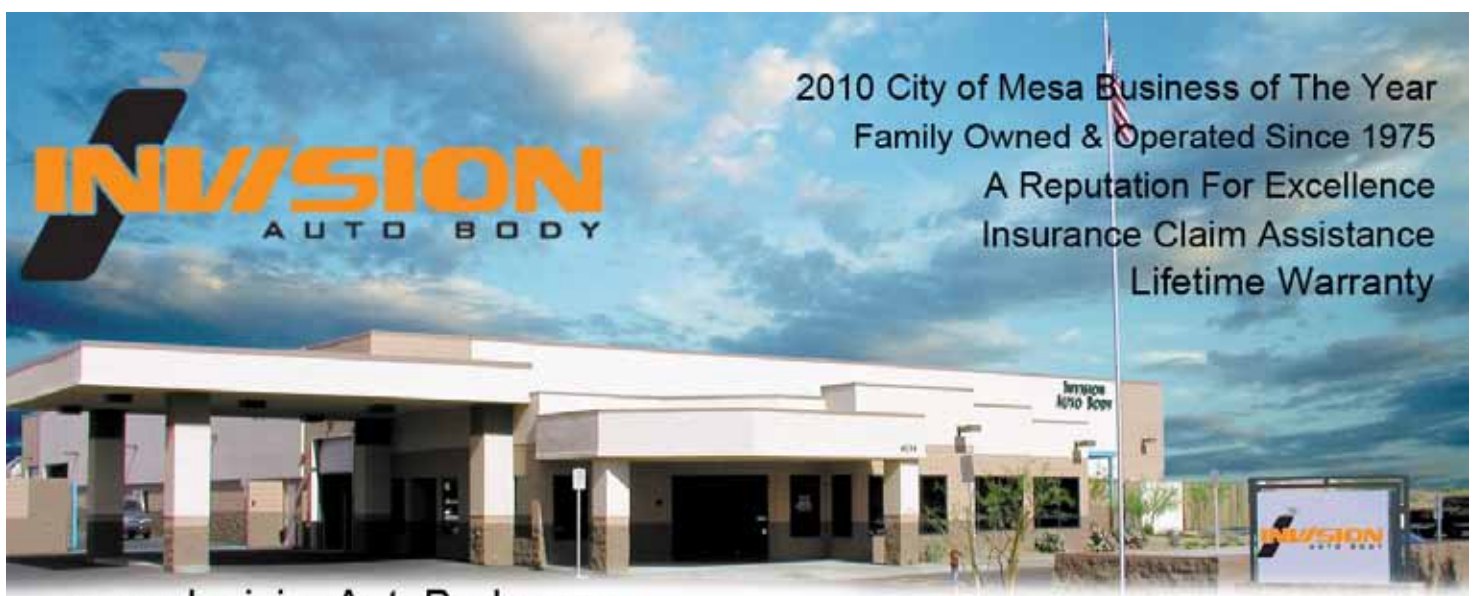

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In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

My oldest son will graduate from high school in a few short months. I'm getting misty-eyed just thinking about it. I remember when he was born, just a mere 17 years ago. He had peach fuzz that nuzzled his crown and huge, searching blue eyes. We have forged quite a bond since that day.

Now, he is taller and stronger than I am, poised to take the next step in his life which will lead him to future greatness and grandeur. But this step will also, unfortunately, leave me behind. I am excited about his forthcoming adventures, but simultaneously wistful of his engaging trip without me. I desperately want to reach out and stop time, squish it into my fist and stuff it into my pocket for safe keeping, but the tick tock of the clock never ceases.

What is a mother to do when her first-born child is perched on that teetering threshold of life? I want to pull him back and hold him hostage for another year or two, but I know I should be gently nudging him off that brink instead. The mothering role I have played for the past 17 years is steadily waning and I genuinely want to stretch it out as taut as possible.

Over the years, my son and I have spent numerous hours together. I have faithfully attended his various sporting events and musical concerts, helping him with most of his "firsts," including his first smile, his first steps, his first day of school, and his first dance. I was also his first date.

We as mothers sacrifice much to rear the chosen generation. We sacrifice our time, talents, careers, sleep, favorite pastimes, and so much more. Our children become the center of our world for years at a time, greatly shifting our views as we fade into the "Mommy Zone," where precious time is gobbled up by carpools, sports practices and games, Pinewood Derbies, playdate shuttles, cooking, cleaning, laundry, band concerts, and a million other choice chores. The things we accomplished and the life we had before children seems to melt into the background.

Before the "Zone," people used to call me by my first name, but now my identity is "Mom." My being, my original entity, has changed and refashioned into a new description of me. When people ask me about myself, my mind switches to autopilot, spitting out a sundry list of the accomplishments of my children and their myriads of activities, contentedly slipping into the "Mommy Zone," a choice whirlwind of dishes, diapers, dinner, and discipline.

The other day, my son asked me about my senior year of high school. A wave of memories flooded my mind as I tried to remember. I recalled cleaning the school seal with a toothbrush, having the mascot drawn on my face, and riding the town trolley in my Prom dress. He was shocked at my response because I was, you know, born as "Mom," with no existence before children. As we merrily chatted, both he and I were amazed that we shared the same hopes, dreams, and fears. I faintly remembered who I used to be before mommy senility hit me.

But, now I have to make that journey to reinvent myself all over again as I struggle let him go. I know I must let this first fledgling learn to fly and hopefully, he will soar to new heights and climb to his highest potential. I must now hold back, newly stationed in his background as he tries his inexperienced wings for the first time.

It is difficult for me to stand by, watching him take his first flight away from me and into the world. I want to stretch my apron strings to the ends of the Earth, to be his support and catch him if he falls, but I know these ties must be severed, leaving me with my peach-fuzzed memories. As he eases into his new role, recreating himself as a responsible young adult, I must do the same, trusting in the process of our growth, knowing mothers have been doing this for centuries.

My time with him in the "Mommy Zone" is quickly fading, as my graduate leaves me behind, alongside his childhood. Maybe I can graduate with him, to a new level of parenting. But, I certainly won't be racing to the podium. I want to savor every moment I have left with him.

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Town of Gilbert Teaches Citizens to PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

Photo by Tina Scott

Among the many community members and organizations who shared information at the Town of Gilbert Preparedness Fair were friends, George Bauer, of the Fairview Ward, Higley Stake, and Gordon Ray, of the Maplewood Ward, San Tan Stake, who cooked bacon by the heat of a propane lantern and shared other tips for alternative cooking methods.

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

This past fall, the Town of Gilbert chose September 11 as the day to host its first annual emergency preparedness fair. The event was organized with the help of the Gilbert Police and Fire departments, the Red Cross and more than100 volunteers.

"Our main objective was to help each citizen become more prepared, more knowledgeable, have a better understanding of services available from the Town of Gilbert, what knowledge and expertise is out there in the community and what little things they can do every day to prepare," says event planner, Cheryl Nuttall. Referring to the attacks of September 11, 2001, she says that crisis "made emergency preparation paramount" in people's minds. She says, "Tying that in to an emergency preparedness fair just made sense."

The event, held at Williams Field High School, stressed the need to be prepared with a year's supply of food and water, and also shared information about how to become financially solvent and about getting back to the basics.

One handout distributed at the fair taught the importance of rotating one's stored water supply every six months, or, if storing pre-packaged bottled water, every year. The handout also explained that, for emergencies, each person should store a 14-day supply of water, with a minimum of one gallon of water per day recommended, half for consumption, the other half for cleaning.

Among the recommendations was the need for updating first-aid kits, forming home evacuation plans, and pre-purchasing foods that don't require cooking

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Internationally Known "Creators" Added to Line-up for "TIME TO BLOSSOM" Conference for Girls

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Nearly 500 young women, aged 11 to 16, will come together this summer to create fun, bonding experiences, spiritual moments and a whole new way of looking at themselves, their goals and their plans for the future—all as part of a five-day conference called Time to Blossom.

Conference organizers, Debbie Forrest and Carla Jorgensen, both from Mesa, say the first Time to Blossom conference, held last year, exceeded all expectations.

They have taken the things that worked well, expanded from there, and have created an even-more amazing offering of classes, entertainment, interactive experiences and service opportunities.

To an already star-studded lineup of presenters—including American Idol finalist Brooke White, motivational speakers Brad Wilcox and John Bytheway, etiquette specialists Nanci Wudel and Vivian Cline, nd body image specialists April Price and Rachel Stewart—organizers recently announced the participation of two master "creators," whose experience and outlook will inspire the young women to great heights in their own lives.

Photo courtesy Carla Jorgensen

Jessica Sprague, internationally known author of four books, will help girls create their own "My Awesome Life" book at the two Time to Blossom young womens' conference sessions this summer.

"Heidi Swapp is one of those wonder women," Carla says. "She is not only a wife and mother of five, she puts on a webinar every week to help women develop their creativity."

Co-owner of Houseof3, Heidi has developed hundreds of scrapbooking products and travels the world teaching scrapbooking classes.

"She is a master with finishing touches and makes ordinary things special and exciting for the girls," Debbie says.

Also internationally known for her creativity and talents is Jessica Sprague. "When Jessica talks about creating 'My Awesome Life,' a book she has created just for Time to Blossom, you can feel her heart and mission. When she helps the girls create their album they will not only have something they will keep forever but she will inspire them to take journaling seriously. She will touch their hearts," Carla says.

Photo courtesy Carla Jorgensen

Heidi Swapp, who is co-owner of Houseof3 and has developed hundreds of scrapbooking products, is the Time to Blossom creative director, helping to convey to young women participants greater confidence in their own worth and their ability to dream and to create.

"She will teach the girls that their lives are important and meaningful and that each of them has so much to offer," Debbie says.

Jessica and Heidi will underscore the entire Time to Blossom experience.

"We want girls to know they can create a life of joy and happiness. Yes, there will be challenges along the way, but as they stay focused, have faith and confidence in themselves, they can create a powerful future and become and do all they desire," Debbie says.

Carla agrees, saying, "The over-arching mission of Time to Blossom is for girls to be able to follow their mission in life, dream big, and have the confidence to implement those goals."

"As the girls leave our conference, we want them to be excited, with their vision expanded, knowing they can use their talents and gifts to create meaningful lives," say the conference organizers. "We want them to see themselves the way our Father in Heaven and the Savior see them-- and to see others in that same way."

This summer's two sessions of Time to Blossom—June 20 to 24 and June 27 to July 1—will be held at the new Hyatt Place Hotel at 1422 W Bass Pro Drive in Mesa. Registration is underway and slots are filling quickly. For details or to register, visit www.timetoblossom.com.

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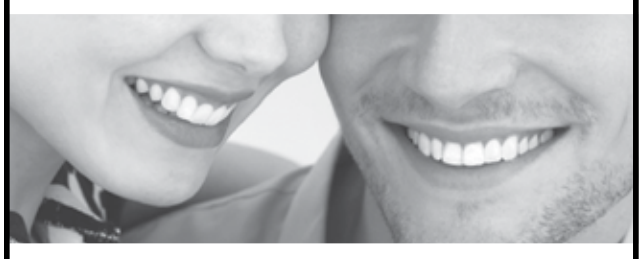

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Town of Gilbert Preparedness Fair
Continued from pg. 36

and can easily be stored. Participants were reminded that food storage items should be purchased in small quantities so as not to strain the budget.

Demonstrations showcased alternate cooking methods, emergency planning and how to begin a 72-hour kit.

Cheryl says everyone involved seemed to appreciate the event.

"The vendors were tickled with the turnout and asked to be included again next year," she says, "Everybody there was there for a purpose and wanted to learn. Even the breakout sessions were very helpful."

Some organizations distributed information about ongoing efforts to promote preparedness.

The Arizona Preparedness Group meets monthly and teaches lessons about the Constitution. Group members get deals on items bought in quantity. To learn more, e-mail: azpreparednessgrp@hotmail.com.

The Sheep Dogs group meets monthly to discuss preparedness topics, then, four times a year, go on campouts to practice the things they learn. Those interested may contact Peggy Hansen at: peggyreefamilytree@yahoo.com.

Camp Out AZ can be contacted through campoutaz.pbworks.com. While the group adheres to strict LDS standards, all denominations are welcome. Workshops on a variety of topics are taught at their campout, such as cooking without gas, learning to navigate in the wilderness, different uses for vinegar and making emergency shelters. One of the planned activities included an overnight mock evacuation of their campsite.

Members of the San Tan Stake and the Higley Stake also were on hand, distributing the Church's official pamphlets, "All is Safely Gathered In," about Family Home Storage and Finances. (See LDS.org, Gospel Library Support Material.)

Visit the Town of Gilbert's website: http://emergencypreparegilbert.wordpress.com for other preparedness resources.

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TEMPLES

in Gilbert and Phoenix Move Step Closer to Completion

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Wheeler

An artist›s rendition shows the one-story Phoenix Arizona Temple, which was redesigned to comply with the residential zoning building height limit of 30 feet, eliminating the need to rezone the property.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Latter-day Saints in Arizona—and especially those in Gilbert and Phoenix—eagerly look forward to having two more temples in the state.

In February 2008, President Thomas S. Monson announced two new temples would be built in Arizona, one in the Gila Valley and the other in Gilbert. Just weeks later, in May 2008, President Monson announced another temple for Arizona, this one in Phoenix.

The Gila Valley Temple was completed last year and dedicated on May 23, 2010.

For the Gilbert Temple, the groundbreaking and site dedication was held November 13, 2010. The task of burying the power lines along the perimeter of the property had been completed prior to the groundbreaking. As of January 2011, the below-grade work and excavation was continuing, large conduits were being laid for the utilities and earth movers had begun grading and preparing the site for construction.

The design of the five-story Gilbert Temple, with a spire reaching 195 feet, was overseen by Gregory B. Lambright of Architekton—an architectural firm in Tempe. The temple, located on the southeast corner of Greenfield and Pecos roads, will have 81,000 feet of floor area and is expected to be completed in 2013.

For the Phoenix Temple, CCGB Architects of Phoenix, with Scott Walker as lead, is doing the design work. Neighbors had raised concerns about the original plans that were submitted, even though the Phoenix City Council unanimously approved the rezoning with stipulations, which would allow the temple to be 10 feet higher than the limit established for surrounding residences. The opposing neighbors wanted to take the issue to the voters, but, in the interest of avoiding any delays, the Church announced it would redesign the building to comply with the existing residential zoning requirements.

On August 17, 2010, the modified plan for the Phoenix Arizona Temple was revealed at a special neighborhood meeting. "We want the neighbors to understand that their concerns were considered as the new design was drawn up," said Church spokesperson Jennifer Wheeler. The temple was redesigned, making it a single-story building, with a larger footprint and with a full basement. The total height was lowered by nine feet. According to Jennifer, the new design met all zoning requirements including height, lighting, setbacks, and parking. The City of Phoenix Planning and Development Services Department granted preliminary site approval on November 30, 2010.

Based on the neighborhood coalition's request for an interpretation from the Zoning Administrator as to whether the city applied the ordinance correctly when it calculated parking for the temple, a zoning adjustment hearing was held January 13.

"Right now, we are waiting for the Zoning Administrator's determination of the Zoning Adjustment Formal Interpretation Application," Jennifer stated. "The Church is respectful of the zoning administrator role and believes he will concur with the city's application of the parking ordinance. We anticipate construction will proceed as planned."

For updates about the Phoenix Temple, visit www.phoenixmormontemple.com.

Mormon Tabernacle Choir features Men's Voices on New CD

In its 100 years of recording history, there was still something the Mormon Tabernacle Choir hadn't done—until this past December. At the end of last year, they released a first—an album featuring only the men of the Choir. *Men of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir* includes favorite hymns and folk tunes along with Broadways hits and international music.

The CD was met with widespread interest, rising to number one on Billboard Magazine's Classical Traditional Chart the first week of its release.

"The initial reaction to the release of the CD is very gratifying," said Director Mack Wilberg.

The album includes 15 tracks, including "Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy" and "Beautiful Savior" along with a more contemporary sound, with songs made famous by Josh Groban, "You Raise Me Up," and Billy Joel, "Lullabye (Goodnight My Angel)." *Men of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir* can be purchased at LDS bookstores or can be purchased or downloaded online at www.deseretbook.com.

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Mesa North Stake Hosts Preparedness Fair for their MORMON HELPING HANDS PROJECT

Photo by Daniel Wenger

Among the many who helped make the Mesa North Stake Community Preparedness Fair a success were Daryl Brown, co-chair of the event, and chairman Sheryl Hineman, who are shown here visiting in one of the more than 35 booths and displays that were part of the event.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

When the Greater Phoenix Public Affairs Council asked stakes to consider a service project as part of the National Mormon Helping Hands Service Day project, the Mesa North Stake responded in a big way.

Mormon Helping Hands is a Church program for providing community service and, when needed, for offering disaster relief to those in need. It started in 1998, when the Church asked leaders in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile to consider ways they could reach out with service to their communities. Since the program began, hundreds of thousands of Mormon Helping Hands volunteers have donated millions of hours of service.

For its project, the Mesa North Stake hosted a Stake Community Emergency Preparedness Fair on October 30. The event was planned under the direction of President Jay Leavitt and his counselors, Ryan Porter and Wayne Strong, and in conjunction with the Stake Public Affairs Committee made up of Linda King, chair; Kathy Allen, media relations; and Elva LeSueur, community relations.

Sheryl Hineman was called as chairperson for the Preparedness Fair, with Daryl Brown and Marti Slade as her assistants. Sheryl says the event itself was a joint effort that involved many of the stake members.

"It was a sight to see so many members of our stake unite together to serve one another and our community," Sheryl says.

A total of 38 booths provided information in everything from water purification and storage, to dehydrating, food storage, herbs, canning and pandemics and quarantines. There were classes in tortilla making, gardening, using grains and freeze-dried food

Outside, there were demonstrations in how to make a fire without a match, cooking without electricity, solar ovens, Dutch oven cooking and wilderness

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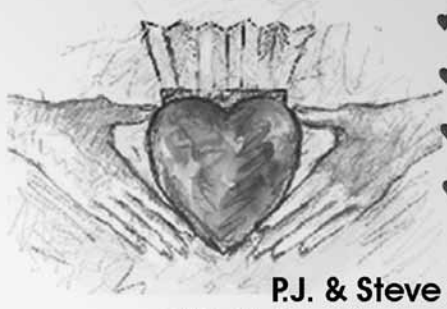

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Mesa North Stake Preparedness
Continued from pg. 40

sanitation.

"The mission of this event was to teach, to educate, to inform and inspire those who came seeking information regarding many aspect of emergency preparedness," says Sister Allen.

Cheryl explains that one thing that made the fair so successful was that the booths were "interactive" and "there was food tasting and/or a handout at every booth."

To spread the word through the neighborhood, flyers were created in both Spanish and English and were taken door to door. Signs were put outside the stake center on the day of the fair.

"Our Stake Emergency Preparedness Fair was a huge success," said Sheryl. "We were planning on 300 to 400 attending and an estimated 1,000 were in attendance."

Kathy Allen said, "Everyone that was asked and volunteered in all aspects of the fair did their best, as was evident from the spirit, the energy and the excitement that was present."

She says Mesa North Stakes is already making plans for another preparedness event. "It is a worthy effort and well worth the time, work and funds used to accomplish it."

For more information about the Mormon Helping Hands program, visit http://beta-newsroom.lds.org/article/helping-hands

From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

One Word Can Change Your Life

I'm sure I'm not unique when it comes to feeling a bit overwhelmed at times.

Don't we all have those days, or months—or even years—when our "to do" lists seem to grow at lightning speed, far out-pacing what we could ever accomplish? While we are still looking for a sharpened pencil to even capture one thing on paper, the phone rings, the mail comes or our own internal "you should" alarm reminds us of something else we need or want to do.

In my office, I have a decorative sign that seems to give an answer to the hurriedness and the deluge of "thin things" that have a tendency to inundate life. As I scramble through emails and a deluge of paperwork, it helps bring things back into focus, reminding me of where my priorities should lie—"Faith," it says in big block letters, with, "in the Lord Jesus Christ" across the bottom.

There, is the answer, in one small phrase. When I focus on that one thing, all else seems to melt away—or at least take its proper place. Focusing on that one "weightier" thing takes the weight of other concerns off my shoulders.

It reminds me of a blog post by author and motivator, Jon Gordon, where he says, "One word can change our life." He says the authors of *WisdomWalks*, have a tradition of selecting a word on New Year's, and making that word the focus for their year. "They don't randomly pick a word, but rather through reflection, prayer and listening to their heart the word comes to them," Jon writes.

Then, he says this: "We live in a busy stressed-filled world with tons of distractions that cause us to forgo our resolutions and forget about our goals. But everyone can remember and focus upon one word that will represent the essence of what we hope to accomplish and who we want to be."

At first, it sounded like a great idea and I began contemplating several words, particularly some that had a special gospel context for me—words like "Rescue" and "Reverence." Then, "Patience" and "Peace." "Faith" and "Fellowship."

And, then I was right back into the throes of confusion, feeling like there were just too many words to select from anyway, and, besides, I thought, "What could just one word really do anyway?"

In answer, a simple scripture came to mind: "Behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass…"

M. Russell Ballard says: "Is our journey sometimes impeded when we forget the importance of small things? (See Alma 37:46.) Do we realize that small events and choices determine the direction of our lives just as small helms determine the direction of great ships? (See James 3:4; D&C 123:16.)"

Yes, it's just a word. But, seeing the exercise through, and selecting my "word of the year" was meaningful to me. Already, that one word has helped to direct my path. I believe this "small thing" will help me throughout the year. How about you? What is your word for 2011? It's not too late to contemplate … and I'd love to hear the results. Pick the word that will allow "great things to come to pass" for you this year, then, if you care to share, e-mail me at writeone@cox.net.

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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Procrastination Messes Up Intention

As Latter-day Saints, we believe we're a special people, shored up by truths, unrecognized by most of the earth's inhabitants. Thus, if we possess "truth," why is it that Mormons, as a whole, still suffer human foibles? We know the answer. We're all here to overcome those pesky earthy challenges.

Case in point: I'm fortunate to attend a unique ward in Queen Creek; the bishop, Kevin Peterson, is as inspired and valiant as they come, as are his counselors and a thriving ward membership of dedicated families. Thus, when Bishop Peterson shared the statistics on our home teaching and visiting teaching for 2010, I was surprised the Montelena Ward didn't claim a full 100 percent all around.

Truth is, our numbers were exceptionally high—but, why not 100 percent? We know this issue runs throughout our worldwide church. Why? How can people possessing the truth not live in exactness concerning Christ's admonition to watch over His sheep? Agreed, certain elements of righteous living are so abstract, they cannot be weighed through numbers, but not home and visiting teaching. They are either—or.

Where was that article on procrastination my husband showed me this week? Aw, here it is: THE WEEK, January 14, by James Surowiecki. The author claims, "Procrastination is the quintessential modern problem." (Actually, I would argue it's an age-old issue).

Surowiecki muses, "People want to do the responsible, serious thing, but our desires shift as the long run becomes the short run, and so we often fail to do what we had planned." Generally, that's because we fail to plan for all the interruptions, defined by the author as, "The planning fallacy."

I ask, "Is it ignorance that causes us to underestimate the power of distractions, or is it lazy thinking?"

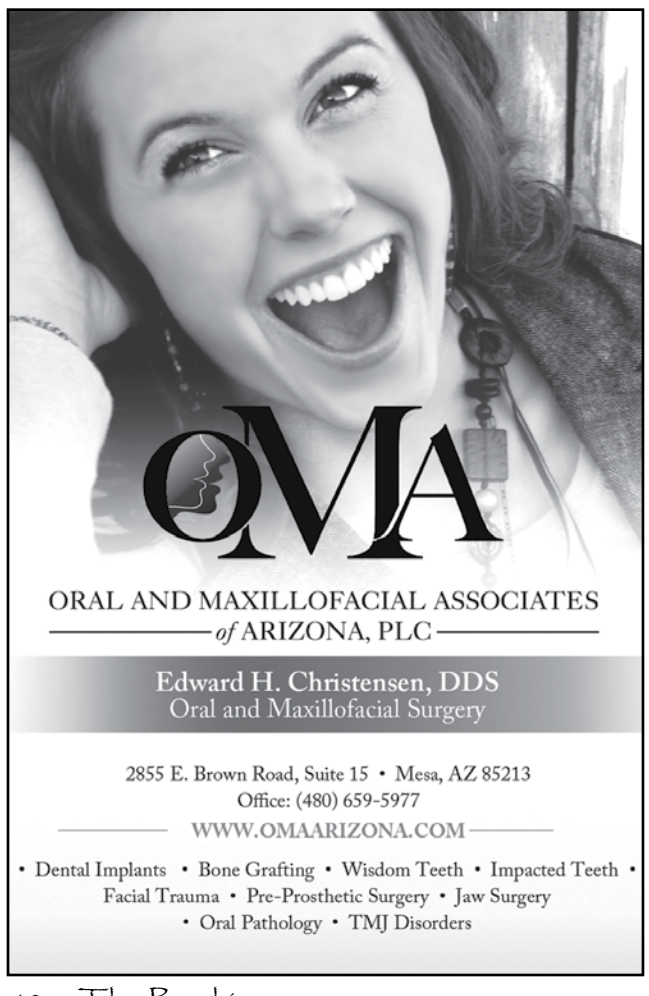
Then, there are feelings; that is, how we feel about our tasks. Some experts say: "The person who makes plans and the person who fails to carry them out are not always the same person." Each of us is a "divided self."

Philosopher Don Ross speaks on that subject: "The various parts of the self constantly compete and bargain with one another—one wants to work, one wants to watch television and so on." The trick is to give help to the part that wants to get the work done.

If you're like me, you find deadlines very helpful. Generally, they motivate. However, it seems that the end of the month still doesn't push some home and visiting teachers into action. Why?

There's a saying repeated by motivational leaders: "Know that you know. To know and not to do—is not to know." In other words, if I really understand a concept, I own it. I do it. I live it. It's mine. If not, perhaps I don't believe. Is that possible?

Clearly, failure to complete the black and white assignments of keeping connections with every soul within our wards speaks loudly. Either we believe or we don't. Our actions tell the tale.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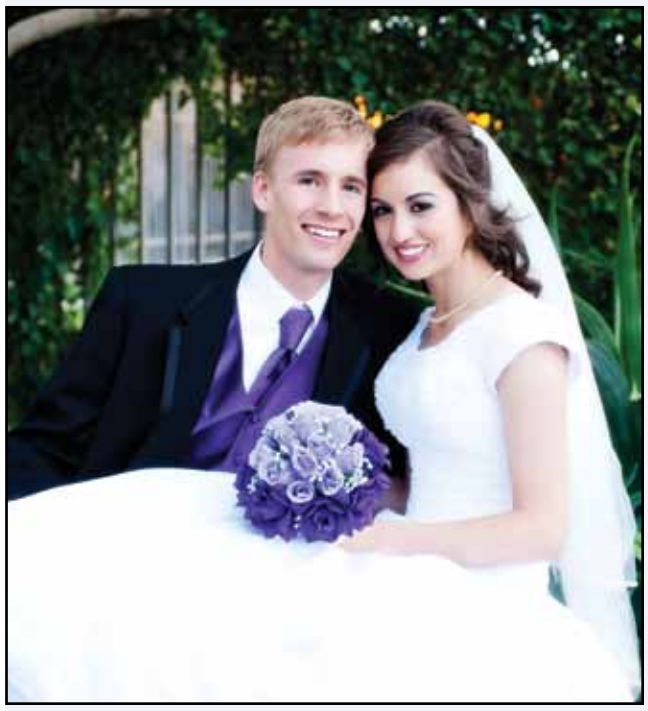

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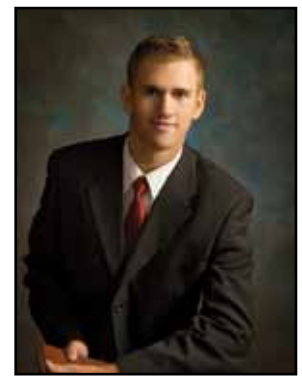

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Navajo and Hopi People Learn a Better Way to GARDEN

By Julia Griffin
The Beehive

Photo by Julia Griffin

Senior service missionaries, including (l to r) Elder and Sister Seeley, Sister Barra and Elder Griffin, help the Navajo and Hopi people living near Tuba City, Arizona, learn a new, more effective, way of gardening.

Traditionally, the Navajo and Hopi people, living near Tuba City, Arizona, have dry-farmed their crops and gardens, planting seeds in the clay or sandy soils, then hoping the rains would come. For the past several years, moisture levels have been inconsistent so harvests have been very poor.

In the face of this, Tuba City Stake President, Larry Justice, had great concerns for the welfare of his people. Through inspiration, he had the idea to start the Navajo/ Hopi Food Initiative, and he requested help from the Church.

"What we are trying, really, out here to do, is to make this place blossom temporally and physically. And, we are doing that through provident living," he says.

Funded by the Church Humanitarian Services (now LDS Charities) and through private donations, the initial project to teach a new approach to raising crops began in October 2009 and culminated in November 2010.

The effort was directed by Allen Christensen, director of the Benson Institute. Technical assistance, instruction and support came from local priesthood leaders and from Church service missionaries, who were supervised by project manager Earl Seeley, who was serving with his wife, Carole, of the Mountainville Ward, Mount Pleasant Utah North Stake.

Photo by Julia Griffin

Eldon Povatah, of the Tuba City Stake, heeding the instruction of senior service missionaries, put new gardening techniques into practice in several gardens he had for his family and extended family.

Perhaps what contributed most to the project's success were the Hopi and Navajo people themselves—more than 250—both Church members and individuals of other faiths, who diligently put the lessons into practice.

Gardens were fitted with metal fencing, wind screens and micro-drip watering systems. Fruit trees, berry bushes, vegetable seeds and seedlings were also provided.

Demonstration gardens were set up at Church sites in Tuba City, Kayenta, Polacca and Cameron, Arizona, where water tanks and or buckets were used to demonstrate drip-watering systems. A native Hopi Blue Corn patch set up in Polacca, on a drip-watering system, ultimately grew to eight-feet tall.

Church service missionaries worked in the demonstration gardens and also taught Provident Living classes, providing Relief Society presidents and others with the tools for growing, preserving and using produce in nutritional ways. Many learned to pressure-bottle green beans, bottle peaches, make pickles,

Continued on pg. 47

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Navajo and Hopi
Continued from pg. 46

harvest potatoes, dry their produce and cook meals in solar ovens.

Eldon Povatah, Second Counselor in the Tuba City Stake, had several gardens for his family and extended family. "[Gardening] brings the family together, it unites us. We work together and enjoy the fruits that are produced," he says.

Any extra produce from demonstration and participant gardens was distributed to neighbors, friends and to the needy by the Relief Society President at each site.

While learning a different way to grow crops, individuals grew in several ways. "We saw a number of families pull together as they worked together in their garden. This has led to a higher level of activity and service in the Church for many families," Elder Seeley says.

Activity in family history research and temple attendance also increased. "Sometimes we think that what we are doing isn't that important, unless we examine what's happening in the people's lives," Elder Seeley says.

The Church has indicated it will continue the project in 2011, and, this year, 200 new participants in the Tuba City Stake will participate and the project will be extended to nearby stakes as well.

To learn how to participate in these or other Senior Service Missions, visit: csm- support@ldschurch.org or call 1-800-453-3860 Ext. 2-4914.

A Single Story

by Michelle Thompson

A-B-C-D-what?

At 2:30 p.m. on a Monday afternoon, I found myself at the county courthouse, standing third in line, waiting to file for a divorce. As my mind spun circles around the "shoulda-coulda- woulda's", I took a deep breath in and quietly said to myself, "But I did everything right. A: I was faithful under the worst of circumstances. B: I fasted, prayed, and read my scriptures with full purpose of heart. C: I did everything within my power to be a good wife. So why is it that I am now filing for the Big-D?"

At that crucial moment of thought, I looked up to see a small hand usher me over to a yellowing 2X2 opening of plexi-glass. How I mustered the strength to walk the 5 feet, only heaven knows. Yet, before I knew what was happening, I watched my shaky fingers pass the paperwork through a small metal opening. Then, for the low, low price of $350.00, I watched my heart, hopes and marriage become undone. As the notary stamp plunged onto each document, I said to myself, "But I did everything right".

Slowly I shuffled, a walk of shame, to my car. I slid behind the wheel of the driver's seat, but I don't remember closing the door. In fact, I don't remember driving home, turning the house key, or crawling under the covers and sleeping for the next 5 hours. Had it not been for the cat licking my eyebrows, I doubt my eyes would have had the courage to open. But, they did.

For the next two hours I lay in bed lamenting the last 3 years. In my mind I played out every fight, every kiss, and every laugh. Then these words came to my mind:

"Agency—our power to choose—is fundamental to the gospel plan that brings us to earth. God does not intervene to forestall the consequences of some persons' choices in order to protect the well-being of other persons—even when they kill, injure, or oppress one another—for this would destroy His plan for our eternal progress (compare Alma 42:8). He will bless us to endure the consequences of others' choices, but He will not prevent those choices (compare Mosiah 24:14–15)." – President Monson.

There is no greater joy or heartache than the realization of another's free-agency. Although we may play life according to how we feel, or how we think we should feel, the truth of the matter is that you can't give your love to another with strings attached. It's an all or nothing game, with no guarantees. Some see that truth as an untapped adventure; others see it as an impending doom. As for me, I see it as a blessing.

As much as I would like to embrace a life full of love without hurt or trial, the fact remains, that I would not appreciate love unless there was a little hurt and trial. Although it's not always comfortable or easy, free-agency is the one and only thing that will continue to bless us and ensure our eternal progress. When it's all said and done, who really could ask for anything more?

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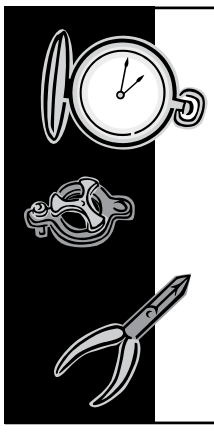

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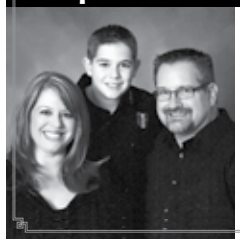

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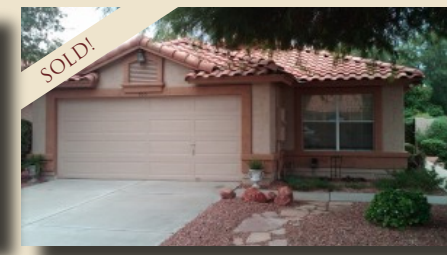

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